



# Jordan Times

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### PLO healing ties with Gulf states

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said on Monday its relations with Gulf states were moving towards normalisation after a rift caused by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. "Our ties with Gulf countries have recently started to improve," senior PLO official Mahmoud Abbas told AFP in an interview during a visit to Abu Dhabi. Mr. Abbas said a PLO delegation would soon visit Oman and Qatar to brief them on the autonomy agreement with Israel. But he said there were no planned trips to Saudi Arabia or Kuwait. Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states boycotted the PLO after they accused it of siding with Iraq during the occupation of Kuwait three years ago. The rift deprived the PLO of its main source of financial assistance. The six members have extended more than 90 per cent of the \$2.5 billion the PLO has received in official Arab aid since the Baghdad Arab summit in 1979 approved anti-Israel funds for some members. "It is still very, very difficult. Our coffers are almost dry," said Mr. Abbas about the PLO's financial crisis. Mr. Abbas, an Executive Committee member who signed the autonomy accord with Israel at the White House on Sept. 13, appealed for Gulf and other Arab states to extend "political, moral and financial support."

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## Islamists say they are targeted, warn of possible boycott of Nov. 8 polls

By Suhair Obaidat

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Islamic Action Front (IAF) warned Tuesday that it will withdraw from the race for the Nov. 8 elections if the government continues what the Islamists describe as undue interference in the elections process.

Ishaq Farhan, leader of the IAF, said a number of government "acts" had given the front grounds to doubt the "integrity of the elections."

"(The government's recent actions) give us ground to question the integrity of the elections... if these lead to a confrontation, and we hope they would not, the door is always open for reconsidering (our decision to participate in) the elections," Dr. Farhan told a press conference.

"In the past few days, some ministries and institutions have 'negatively' interfered in the elections process in a manner violating the law and depriving candidates of their constitutional and legal rights," Dr. Farhan said, reading from a prepared statement.

Dr. Farhan was referring to a decision by the Ministry of Interior rejecting an application by the IAF to hold a public rally in an open area in Marka and other public gatherings without giving a reason for the ban.

Mr. Farhan also cited an incident where the minister of education transferred 11 teachers and ministry officials (six of whom are active IAF members) from Tafleeh Governorate to other districts in what the described as a bid to prevent them from campaigning for the party.

"When I met with the minister of education, Dr. Khaled Al Omari, he told me that they will be transferred back to their original posts as soon as the elections are over," Dr. Farhan said.

He added that he, and another member of the IAF, Hamzeh Mansour, had also met twice with Minister of Interior Salameh Hamad to try



Ishaq Al Farhan

to convince him to reverse the ban on public rallies, "but (the minister's) position remained unchanged."

Dr. Farhan said that he had requested a meeting with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali to discuss these two issues, "and if the matter is not resolved, I will request an audience with His Majesty the King."

"In the meantime, we have our own ways of getting in touch with people and we will continue holding meetings in the party's various campaign centres and homes," he said.

The Election Law bans election campaigning and rallies in state-owned buildings; and in places of worship.

Throughout the campaign leading up to the 1989 elections, the Muslim Brotherhood, at that time the only group tacitly allowed to operate as a political party, held rallies attended by thousands of supporters. Following prayers, mosque preachers delivered sermons urging people to vote for the movement's candidates.

In a national speech Oct. 12, His Majesty King Hussein called on mosque preachers not to indulge in political work at the places of worship. "Let us leave politics outside the houses of worship. Let us see to it that people inside the houses of God do not hear any

language describing God's creatures..."

Dr. Farhan, a member of the Upper House of Parliament, called on the imams of mosques and independent Islamists running for the Nov. 8 elections to "withdraw from the race and make way for other candidates (from the IAF)" who have a better chance in winning "in view of the one-person, one-vote amendment, so that votes (for the Islamists) will not be scattered."

Also attending the press conference were other IAF members, including Hamman Saed, Hamzeh Mansour and Ibrahim Zeid Keilani.

Dr. Farhan admitted that between three and nine IAF members are contesting the elections without the approval of the party's leadership, but dismissed the implication that this was a sign of a rift in the party, which remains the biggest and most organised group in the country.

"This is an organisational violation for which they will be punished. Some of them (the violators) submitted their resignation (from the party) and others are going to do so," he said.

Dr. Farhan also dismissed allegations that the party had asked for financial aid from neighbouring countries and went into a lengthy explanation of the budget breakdown of the campaign. "We estimated that a candidate would need at least JD 5,000, depending on the district he is running in. Almost half of the IAF's 36 candidates are self-financed, except for paying advertisement costs in the local newspapers which will be taken care of by the party."

The party's 1989 campaign slogan "Islam is the solution," is used again this year with "yes," added to the beginning. It is interpreted as a clear answer to some speculations that the party has changed its strategy, which, most analysts and observers think, might have caused it to lose ground in

(Continued on page 5)



Longest-serving Palestinian prisoner Salim Hassan Zerafi (centre) is cheered by friends and relatives, as he arrives home in the Deir Al Balah town in the Gaza Strip (AFP photo)

## Ross, in Arafat talks, stresses need to speed up autonomy

From Wafa Amr in Tunis

IN THE first high-level meeting of its kind since the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord in Washington last month, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and U.S. chief Middle East peace coordinator Dennis Ross discussed at length Tuesday the mechanisms of implementing the autonomy agreement and the U.S. role in pushing for a comprehensive peace settlement in the Middle East.

PLO officials attending the two-session meeting, which took place in Mr. Arafat's headquarters, said it reflected the U.S. concern for a rapid implementation of the Sept. 13 declaration of principles.

They said the U.S. was also seeking Palestinian help in lifting the 43-year-old Arab boycott of Israel. The PLO, on the other hand, sought the U.S. help in lifting the Israeli siege on Jerusalem and Israeli boycott of Palestinian goods.

Mr. Ross told reporters after the second meeting: "Implementing the PLO-Israel accord is the most important thing to be done, and we want to transform the declaration of principles into an enduring agreement."

He said: "We want to see the realities change and we want to be able to build peace."

Mr. Arafat, who escorted Mr. Ross to his car, told reporters that the meeting focused on "important issues concerning the peace process and the implementation of the

accord."

The PLO chairman said that during the talks with Mr. Ross, "we have agreed on specific steps concerning the implementation of the accord." He would not elaborate.

Mr. Ross, who said his country wanted to do all it can to help Israel and the PLO implement the accord, said, "both sides, we believe, are making good progress right now, but we want to be supportive to help."

PLO officials said the U.S. was proposing to help in implementing the accord by increasing its aid going to the Palestinians through the United Nations agencies, particularly UNRWA.

Mr. Ross said that the U.S. wanted the PLO to speed up the implementation process of development projects in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in order to prove to the international donors and to the U.S. Congress, that the PLO is serious in achieving peace with Israel," a PLO official said.

The official told the Jordan Times that Mr. Ross thought it was imperative for the Palestinians and the Arabs to lift the Arab boycott imposed on Israel, particularly after the signing of the PLO-Israel agreement.

"Arafat told Ross that lifting the Arab boycott was not a Palestinian decision. It was up to the Arab League to take this decision," the PLO official said. "Arafat also asked Ross to urge Israel to take confidence-building measures first such as ending Israel's boycott of Palestinian goods, lifting the siege imposed on Jerusalem, freeing

Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, particularly in Jerusalem and the release of thousands of Palestinian prisoners."

The official said that Mr. Arafat complained that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, by not undertaking such confidence-building measures, was not facilitating the implementation of the accord.

Mr. Ross told Mr. Arafat that it was imperative that the accord was implemented before January, when the U.S. Congress meets to discuss the formal lifting of the U.S. boycott of the PLO.

Mr. Arafat said that he and Mr. Ross also discussed the need for achieving progress on other Arab-Israeli tracks of negotiations, particularly the Syrian-Israeli track and the Lebanese-Israeli track of peace negotiations.

PLO officials said it was probable that the next round of talks would be postponed until some progress was achieved between Israel and Syria. Although no date has been set for the next round of talks, there are still some obstacles on the Syrian track," they said.

"Rabin was not very interested at the moment with rapid progress on the Syrian track, although the U.S. was trying to push for some movement in that track," said one official.

Syria, which has threatened to boycott the next round of talks, has not responded to secret Israeli overtures for secret talks parallel to the Washington negotiations and a proposal that Israel would withdraw from South Lebanon if Damascus reined in the resistance groups active there, sources said.

Also during the Arafat-Ross meeting, the PLO chairman received an important message from His Majesty King Hussein, whose contents were not revealed.

Immediately after the meeting with Mr. Ross, Mr. Arafat flew to Cairo for a brief visit.

## Israel frees longest-held Palestinian; more to come

Combined agency dispatches

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Israel on Tuesday released the longest-held Palestinian prisoner, one of the first concrete achievements of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord, in what was seen as a prelude to the release of thousands of Palestinians over the coming weeks.

"It is what we call a confidence building measure. I believe that some time during the negotiating process there will be more releases," said Oded Ben-Ami, spokesman for Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Mr. Rabin said in a statement released by the army that Salim Hussein Zerafi, 52, was let out of prison because the PLO had not carried out any attacks since the autonomy accord was signed Sept. 13.

Mr. Zerafi, from Deir Al Balah in the Gaza Strip, was jailed for 23 years after being arrested during an attempted sea infiltration near Haifa, the army statement said.

A top Israeli official said

"Israel could announce a release of other Palestinian prisoners during talks with the PLO resuming in Egypt on Wednesday."

Mr. Zerafi was freed at the Erez checkpoint entrance to the occupied Gaza Strip. Palestinians said he was a member of Yasser Arafat's Fatah wing of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"Israel has agreed to the principle of freeing prisoners, but the numbers and criteria for release have not been set,"

Spokesman Ben Ami said Mr. Zerafi was found guilty of "a series of attacks on Israeli soldiers between 1967 and 1969" on the Gaza Strip, but

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## Self-rule deadline may not be kept — Rabin

Combined agency dispatches

TEL AVIV — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin warned Tuesday that the Dec. 13 deadline to start implementing autonomy could not be kept.

"We will not be in a position to respect the two-month deadline that we set in the declaration of principles," Mr. Rabin said.

"We did not realise it would be so difficult and there are hundreds of details we did not know about," the premier said on the eve of Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy negotiations in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Tabá.

But Mr. Rabin added that he hoped "security questions, which are the most important, will be settled in two months."

Mr. Rabin was answering a question during a session of the parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee. A right-wing member of parliament asked Rabin if he thought the timetable could be met.

Detailed talks on early Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho started last week in Tabá.

Under the accord, the Tabá

talks — which cover security as well as issues ranging from taxation to the powers of a Palestinian authority — should conclude by Dec. 13, the date on which the Israeli withdrawal should begin.

In Amman, a PLO official said Palestinians will not focus on Jericho's borders in talks with Israel, although the two sides are far apart on the issue.

Senior strategist Nabil Shaath reiterated, however, that the Palestinian position was that Jericho for purposes of initial Israeli withdrawal was much wider than the Israeli definition.

"I don't want to overhrow the issue of Jericho's borders... we do not want to enshrine its separation from the rest of the West Bank or make political borders," Dr. Shaath said.

"We say the area of Jericho is 340-10-370 square kilometres, nearly the size of Gaza," Dr. Shaath, who heads the Palestinian negotiations in Tabá, told Reuters.

A Palestinian negotiator said last week the PLO wanted control of 395 square kilometres around Jericho while Israel was thinking of just 25 square kilometres, 16 times less.

### Musa due here tomorrow for talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa arrives here Thursday on a visit to Jordan for talks with senior Jordanian officials on the latest development in the region. Mr. Musa will discuss with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Tala Al Hassan the latest development of the Middle East peace process and Arab regional and international issues in addition to bilateral relations.

### Israeli vegetable seller wounded by Palestinians

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Palestinians shot and seriously wounded an Israeli vegetable seller in the occupied Gaza Strip on Tuesday, military sources said. Two Palestinians opened fire on the Israeli as he was driving his truck near the village of Beit Lahiyah, the sources said. He was airlifted to hospital by helicopter after receiving emergency medical aid. The two assailants were already wanted by Israeli police.

### Jibril: Hundreds want to kill Arafat

BEIRUT (R) — Palestinian leader Ahmad Jibril says hundreds of Arab men and women have written to him offering to kill Yasser Arafat in suicide attacks. Mr. Jibril told Al Wasat magazine published in London it was only a matter of time before Mr. Arafat was assassinated for reaching a peace pact.

## Israel wants new formula for Syria

Combined agency dispatches

TEL AVIV — Israel will ask the United States to work out a new framework for negotiations with Syria after two years of getting nowhere, a senior official in the prime minister's office said Tuesday.

The request will be presented to State Department peace coordinator Dennis Ross when he arrives Wednesday as part of a regional swing.

"We have to find other ways of talking to Syria, whether it be secret or through the intermediary of the United States," said the official, who refused to be named.

The bilateral negotiations between Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, the Palestinians and Syria, which began in Madrid in October 1991, have led to an impasse, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy deal was negotiated secretly.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has called for direct, separate, rather than bilateral, talks. "The Madrid framework in which all the delegations gather at the same place for a limited time cannot produce results and has led to no agreement between Israel and the Arabs," Mr. Rabin said Sunday.

"There's no point resuming the Washington negotiations because Syria wants a blank cheque from Israel, which is out of the question," the senior official said.

Damascus demands a total

Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights as a condition for a peace agreement. But Israel refuses to outline the extent of any withdrawal until Syria declares readiness for total peace with open border and diplomatic ties in exchange.

In Riyadh, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa said his country was seeking a "real peace" in the Middle East and not one that would quickly disintegrate.

"We are with the real peace to which our Arab Nation aspires, a peace that will preserve our dignity and achieve prosperity for our sons and stability in the entire region," Mr. Sharaa said at the opening meeting of the Syrian-Saudi Arabian Commission.

Syria has said it does not oppose the accord between the PLO and Israel for limited self-rule in the West Bank town of Jericho and the Gaza Strip as a first step toward wider Palestinian autonomy.

But it has bitterly criticised the PLO for going behind the backs of the other Arab participants in the two-year-old peace process to negotiate the deal.

Mr. Sharaa said in Cairo last week the Syrians would not return to the negotiating table if U.S. shuttle diplomacy fails to narrow the gap between Syria and Israel.

"We are not seeking a fantasy peace built on occupied

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# Middle East News

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1993

## Spin cites new progress in ending Somali crisis

Combined agency dispatches

WASHINGTON — Defence Secretary Les Aspin said Monday that U.S. and United Nations forces are getting closer to resolving the crisis in Somalia, but made no mention of suspending efforts to arrest faction leader Mohammed Farah Aided.

In a speech to an army booster organisation, Mr. Aspin lauded the "dedication and valor and commitment" of U.S. forces in Somalia.

"Thanks to them the situation in Somalia is improving," Mr. Aspin told the Association of the United States Army. "We're making progress in resolving the crisis in Somalia," he added without being more specific.

U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright said Sunday that U.N. forces are no longer actively trying to arrest Gen. Aided, the Somali warlord accused of deadly attacks on U.S. and other U.N. peacekeepers.

The U.S. representative at the United Nations said that the U.N. has "stopped the search process against General Aided at this time."

Her statement on the television programme "Meet the Press" came 10 days after President Clinton announced plans to "depersonalise" the U.S. military mission in Somalia.

After a street battle with Gen. Aided's forces left 18 Americans dead, Mr. Clinton said he would strengthen the U.S. force but would put priority on finding political answers and would withdraw all U.S. forces by March 31.

The U.N. put a price on Gen. Aided's head after his

followers ambushed Pakistani peacekeepers last June, killing 24.

Ms. Albright said the U.N. mission in Somalia is "pressing the political track very hard" with some positive results.

But she added, in reference to Gen. Aided, that "it's important to hold accountable those who create chaos... We cannot afford to have those that attack peacekeeping missions not ultimately be held accountable."

In Mogadishu, U.N. spokesman David Stockwell said Sunday that Gen. Aided "is still vulnerable to detention... If he makes himself vulnerable, then we will detain him."

"Vulnerable would be if he came here to brief you guys... or if he tried to address a rally," Major Stockwell told reporters in the Somali capital.

Asked about her recent statement that failure to act against Gen. Aided would be seen as appeasement, Ms. Albright responded: "What we're doing is trying a different method. What I think we all have to learn in this period is flexibility. There are different ways of doing things, and we are trying different tools."

Ms. Albright also said she had discussed with U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali the advisability of his visiting Mogadishu during his current African tour and noted: "I think that there are aspects to it that might be not the best."

U.S. officials have expressed concern about the timing of Dr. Ghali's projected visit, but Ms. Albright said: "He is the secretary-general and he is entitled to do what he wants."

U.S. leads Pakistan move

The White House Monday applauded Pakistan's decision to send an additional 1,500 peacekeeping troops to Somalia, saying it underscored the international commitment to restore stability there.

Pakistan Prime Minister Moen Qureshi told President Clinton of the decision Sunday, a White House statement said.

"This display of enhanced support for the UNOSOM (U.N. peacekeeping mission) effort is a further sign of the international community's commitment to the process of restoring peace and stability in Somalia," the statement said.

It noted that Pakistani troops have been in Mogadishu longer and suffered more casualties than any other national contingent.

Canadian charged

The officer who was in charge of Canadian peacekeepers in Somalia was charged Monday with negligent performance of duties.

Lieutenant-Colonel Carol Mathieu had been under investigation for at least a month, during which time he was relieved of his duties commanding the Canadian Airborne Regiment battle group. He commanded the battle group in Somalia from Dec. 1992 through June.

The charge against Gen. Mathieu brings to eight the number of Canadian soldiers charged with various offenses while on duty in Somalia.

On Monday, at the Canadian forces base Petawawa in Ontario, Private Elvin Kyle went on trial before a military



Newly-arrived American soldiers prepare to start manoeuvres in a field outside Mogadishu (AFP photo)

panel on murder and torture charges in the death of a Somali man.

The charge against Gen. Mathieu — an offence against military rules under the National Defence Act — alleges that orders he gave were not consistent with the job he was supposed to be doing.

S. Korea rejects request

South Korean President Kim Young-Sam turned down a request Tuesday from President Clinton asking for more troops to be sent to Somalia.

"President Kim said due to domestic circumstances, South Korea would not be able to send more troops to Somalia as requested by the United States," a presidential spokesman said in Seoul.

"The decision was made after serious consideration," Mr. Clinton had sent a letter to Mr. Kim asking for more troops. Details were not known but local news reports said the reinforcement requested in-

cluded combat troops. South Korea's main opposition Democratic Party (DP) said that if Seoul sent combat soldiers to Somalia, it could become another Vietnam.

South Korea sent troops to fight for South Vietnam in the Vietnam war.

A 251-member military engineering unit was sent to Somalia in July to do road repairs and construction work.

World vision sees hope

The head of a major relief operation working in Somalia said Monday that Clinton administration policy changes offer some hope for stability in the country.

"I think President Clinton did a very courageous thing," said World Vision President Robert A. Seiple, whose organisation has 2,000 people working in Africa in humanitarian relief and development projects.

Mr. Seiple said Mr. Clinton's retreat from a policy of pursuing Gen. Aided, even in

the face of U.S. casualties, gets America out of a deepening quagmire at a time when a violent response might have been applauded by many Americans.

"The act of reconciliation that began at that point... put the situation back on course," Mr. Seiple said in an interview. The response also may have saved the life of army pilot Michael Durant who was released by Aided forces shortly after Mr. Clinton announced a U.S. military pullout by the end of March.

This is a major sea change in the way historically we have done business," Mr. Seiple said. World Vision is among the largest privately funded relief operations in the United States, with backing from 40,000 churches and 1.4 million individual contributors. Mr. Seiple said the group was one of the major U.S. food distributors in Somalia and still has about 300 people, mostly Somalis, in a programme to help farmers prepare for their next crop.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Carter expects to monitor Palestinian polls

ATLANTA (R) — Former President Jimmy Carter said Monday he expects to serve as a monitor for Palestinian elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip within the next nine months. Speaking at a news conference, Mr. Carter said he has been in regular contact with Palestinians and Israelis about the issue. "One of the roles that we might very well play is to help hold the election in the West Bank and Gaza, which is supposed to be held in nine months. I hope it will be held in a timely way," Mr. Carter said. The former president attended the White House ceremony last month at which the Israelis and Palestinians agreed on a Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the town of Jericho. Mr. Carter, who brokered the Camp David peace accord between Israel and Egypt in the 1970s, said he has recently spoken with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres about the conduct of the election. "When I met week before last with Shimon Peres in New York, I asked him about the Israelis' position on international observers for the election," Mr. Carter said.

### Carter says U.S. jeopardised Sudan talks

ATLANTA (R) — Former President Jimmy Carter said Monday that the State Department had thrown "a monkey wrench" into upcoming peace talks between warring Sudanese factions by putting Sudan on its list of nations supporting "terrorism." Mr. Carter is set to begin mediating talks between the Sudanese People's Liberation Army and Sudanese People's Liberation Army-United at his presidential centre here next Monday. "They knew full well that we had arranged to begin these peace talks. But a week or two later they put Sudan on the terrorist list," Mr. Carter told a news conference. "The time for that announcement... was inappropriate, because they knew that would certainly throw a monkey wrench into what we were trying to do." He also called the State Department's action counterproductive, saying it could force Sudan to sever ties with the West and rely almost exclusively on fundamentalist-dominated nations like Iran.

### Iran, Turkey to strengthen ties

NICOSIA (R) — Iran and Turkey, concerned about cross border actions by Turkey's separatist Kurds, have agreed to strengthen security ties and step up a campaign against drugs smuggling, Iran's IRNA news agency reported. It said Iranian Interior Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati and his Turkish counterpart Mehmet Gazioglu signed a protocol in Tehran on Monday to counter "hostile acts along their common borders." IRNA reported Mr. Besharati as saying any enemy of Turkey was also an enemy of Iran. He expressed hope that the Turkish government would not allow the enemies of Iran to engage in hostile acts against the Islamic republic while they are on the Turkish soil.

### Israeli minister addresses Arab lobbyists

TEL AVIV (AP) — Yet another Mideast precedent was set Monday when an Israeli cabinet minister held a first-ever meeting with Arab lobbyists in Washington, Israeli media reported. Over a lunch of Middle Eastern foods, lobbyists representing 20 organisations raised concerns ranging from Israeli human rights abuses to settlement building in the occupied territories. "I can assure you that our attitude is very positive," Housing Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer replied to a question about whether prisoners could be released in the wake of the Sept. 13 Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord. He took a harder line on the volatile issue of Jerusalem. "We continue to consider Jerusalem as part of Israel," Mr. Ben-Eliezer said in remarks broadcast on Israel Radio. "Jerusalem is not negotiable. Except for Jerusalem, which is taboo from our point of view, everything is negotiable," he added. A lobbyist who was not identified, said in remarks on radio that just as Israel broke a two-decade taboo against negotiating with the PLO, "I have confidence that as this process continues, other taboos also will be shattered."

### Kuwait may buy French boats, missiles

PARIS (R) — The defence ministers of Kuwait and France Monday signed an agreement creating a framework for the possible Kuwaiti purchase of French-built ships, missiles and communications equipment. French officials said the agreement was relatively limited since, in optimal conditions, it would concern sales amounting to a maximum 1.5 billion francs (\$268 million). "This agreement... concerns the purchase of equipment and arms and defines the way the two countries will cooperate in purchasing them rather than defining what will be bought," Kuwaiti Defence Minister Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah told reporters at the start of a two-day visit which included the signing ceremony with French Defence Minister Francois Leotard. The accord sets a legal framework for Kuwait to buy arms from France, one of the Gulf war allies that helped drive Iraqi forces from the emirate in 1991. It did not include specific deals or sums of money.

### Iraqis, Britons face 'supergun' trial

TERNI, Italy (R) — An Italian magistrate on Monday ordered seven people including two Iraqis and two Britons to stand trial on charges related to the alleged illegal sale of military hardware for an Iraqi supergun. The magistrate handed down a ruling in an investigation which began in 1990 when Italian police seized some 90 tonnes of parts suspected to be for the gun. Similar seizures also were made in Britain, Greece, Turkey, Germany and Switzerland. Three Italians will stand trial in January on the charge of manufacturing war weapons without authorisation, the magistrate said. The other four, two Iraqis and two Britons, will be tried in November 1994 on the same charge, he said. The Britons, Christopher Cowley and John Heat, were alleged to have given technical assistance through an unnamed firm.

## Palestinian 'collaborators' fear for their lives under self-rule

NEW FAHMAH, Occupied West Bank (AFP) — Ahmad Ali Hassan is in a hurry to start a new life after nearly six years of collaborating with Israel, before he fears it is too late.

For the 40-year-old leader of the 2,000 Palestinians classed as "collaborators" in this artificial village, the day of departure for Israel cannot come soon enough.

"Anyone from here who wants to stay in the West Bank can stay, but sooner or later the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will hang him," said Mr. Hassan, a pistol in his belt and an Uzi sub-machinegun under his arm.

The bell tolled for Mr. Hassan and his ilk — another 3,000 "collaborators" living in a similar "collaborator village" on the Gaza Strip — when Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin shook hands with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in Washington on Sept. 13.

The first phase of the Palestinian autonomy deal covers only the Gaza Strip and Jericho, but the collaborators, hundreds of whom have been killed as traitors, say they have no future left in Palestinian society.

"I was very happy about the idea of peace, but at the same moment I began to be afraid for my future," said Mr. Hassan, a fluent Hebrew speaker.

"The autonomy document does not mention the fate of the 5,000 collaborators." A majority have not actively cooperated with the enemy but relatives are automatically tarred with the same brush.

And the collaborators are now demanding guarantees from their protectors.

"I feel Arab, I feel Palesti-



Ahmad Hamarshe, head of New Fahmah

nian, but I have no other choice but to change my spots and become Israeli," he admitted.

"The PLO have been trying to shoot me for a long time," Mr. Hassan said from his bunker of a home near Jenin.

Photographs of himself brandishing an Uzi surrounded by Israeli soldiers and a portrait of President Ezer Weizman have pride of place in the neat white-washed house full of security equipment from walkie-talkies to a flashing siren and an array of weapons.

"Now the government says we will get Israeli passports and in the near future we will live in Israel," said Mr. Hassan, born in the nearby village of Yabed.

"It was hard to leave Yabed, (for Fahmah), the house I built with my own hands and it will be even harder to leave for Israel, but I have no choice."

Outside on the street a

group of men gathered to prepare identity photographs for new Israeli papers, which they hope will come shortly.

An Israeli military commission has recommended that the 5,000 housed in mobile homes inside Israel and be offered citizenship or aid to emigrate.

Although no decision has been announced on their future, a Defence Ministry spokesman said Israel would not abandon "those Palestinians who for years have aided in the fight against terrorism."

The same fears stalk Aldheima village, near Rafah, home for known "collaborators" on the Gaza Strip, particularly since Mr. Arafat announced that collaborators would be judged according "to the law."

The Yediot Aharanot this week presented seven-year-old Ahmad as the youngest collaborator.

"I've always help my father getting all the information he wanted," Ahmad told the daily. "When I grow up I want to be in the Israeli army like my friends the soldiers."

"I hate the Arabs who burned down our family home and I don't want to go back and live with them. The best thing is to be Jewish and go to live in Israel, perhaps I'll have a Hebrew name," he said.

It was left to the elders to voice the worries of those who live in fear for the lives. "Israel cannot forget us now," pleaded A'in "X", a 36-year-old collaborator with four children. "We are lost, suspended over emptiness."

"Who will look after us? If we stay here we will be elimin-

## Egyptian suspect commits suicide

CAIRO (AP) — A Muslim extremist suspect committed suicide Tuesday, apparently to avoid collaborating with police who wanted him to reveal militant hideouts, police said.

Ahmad Meguid-Gayyed was killed when he jumped from the third floor of a house outside Cairo, said a police official, insisting on anonymity.

The official said officers took Abdul-Gayyed to the house in the satellite city Madinet Al Salam to have him point out where his colleagues were hiding.

Abdul-Gayyed was arrested Sunday after a shootout in which two officers and a militant were killed. Police said he and two others opened fire on policemen during a drug raid nearby, apparently believing the police had come to arrest them.

Also Tuesday, police arrested 34 suspects in a continuous crackdown across the country. The raids covered the generally calm Mediterranean city of Alexandria and the Nile Delta province of Sharkeya.

Muslim militants have waged a nearly two-year campaign of violence aimed at replacing the secular government with Islamic rule. More than 200 people have died in the extremists' attacks and their confrontation with police.

## UNRWA, EC launch Gaza hospital project

OCCUPIED GAZA (Special) — A major construction project for a 232-bed hospital in the Gaza Strip was launched in Gaza by United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Commissioner-General Iltis Turkmen and a European Community (EC) envoy in the occupied territories.

Speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony near Khan Yunis, Mr. Turkmen said that UNRWA was "keenly aware of the urgent need for better health services in Gaza as well as the poor quality and limited capacity of available hospital resources, with a bed/patient ratio of 1.1 per 1,000," as compared with the World Health Organisation minimum of two beds per 1,000 persons. The new hospital will increase the number of available hospital beds in Gaza by 25 per cent.

"Without the European Community's generous contribution toward the construction costs of the hospital, the project would not have seen the light of day," the commissioner-general said. The construction costs alone will be over \$20 million.

In addition to the services which will be available once the hospital has been commissioned, the construction and finishing phases will provide jobs to about 1,000 persons directly or indirectly. About 600 employees will work in the hospital after its completion.

"The project is not only related to health care, but also to income-generation and job creation at a very depressed time in the economy of the Gaza Strip and is a good exam-

ple of the international effort to support the peace process," Mr. Turkmen said.

During his remarks to over 300 guests who attended the ceremony, the commissioner-general stressed that "this hospital is being built in response to the needs of the Palestinian community and is the product of close involvement of the Palestinians. It is their hospital. They are building it and they will administer it."

Turkmen thanked some EC member countries which have pledged funds directly to UNRWA for the new hospital as well as other donors which have also responded generously.

Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafi, president of the Red Crescent Society in the Gaza Strip, paid tribute to UNRWA during the groundbreaking ceremony. "I know that this new hospital would not have been possible had it not been for the sincere and continuous efforts by the commissioner-general and his staff to try and pave the ground to make this project a reality."

Dr. Riad Za'noun, director of the Palestinian Health Council in the Gaza Strip, said that the new hospital was the first to be built in Gaza in 25 years and thanked UNRWA and the EC for their efforts to improve health services in Gaza.

Khadar Fahmi Abu Sha'ban, director of the Islamic Waqf Department in the Gaza Strip, which has leased the land on which the hospital is being built to UNRWA, also attended the ceremony.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME TWO  
17:30 ..... Only  
18:00 ..... Lo Vaghiand Des Mers  
19:00 ..... News in French  
19:15 ..... Le Journal De L'Hebdo  
19:30 ..... News in Hebrew  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... Head of the Class  
21:10 ..... Viewpoint 1992  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:30 ..... A Woman Named Jackie

### PRAYER TIMES

04:31 ..... Fayr  
05:38 ..... (Sunrise) Duba  
11:21 ..... Dhur  
14:33 ..... 'Asr  
17:03 ..... Maghreb  
18:28 ..... 'Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedieh, Tel. 810741  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624591  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637441  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Tarrasane Church Tel. 622334  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

### Anglican Church Tel. 630551

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 713331  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 713331  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 717151  
Armenian International Church Tel. 625226  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 625228  
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 644195  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 624922  
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.  
It will be relatively hot with clouds appearing at different altitudes. There will be a chance of showers occasionally accompanied by thunder particularly in the southern and eastern parts of the Kingdom. Winds will be easterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with a chance of showers, and winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.  
Amman ..... 16 / 30  
Aqaba ..... 24 / 31  
Daeirah ..... 15 / 31  
Jordan Valley ..... 23 / 37

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 29, Aqaba 37. Humidity readings: Amman 26 per cent. Aqaba 21 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY  
AMMAN:  
Dr. Walid Al Maari ..... 675485  
Dr. Sa'ad Tawfiq Ali ..... 782825  
Dr. Arafat Al Ashhab ..... 625007  
Dr. Mohammad Shuqair ..... 625693  
Firas pharmacy ..... 661912  
Fendous pharmacy ..... 78336  
Al Asema pharmacy ..... 637025  
Nairoukh pharmacy ..... 626372  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 626731  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644495  
Shmeisan pharmacy ..... 627601  
Nairoukh pharmacy ..... 626072  
Najib pharmacy ..... 847632

AMMAN:  
Dr. Mohammad Al Hilu ..... 279773  
Al Oudh pharmacy ..... (-)

ZARQA:  
Dr. Raith Atallah ..... 984424

AMMAN:  
Dr. Walid Al Maari ..... 675485  
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### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:45 ..... Dubai (AZ)  
10:30 ..... Jeddah (SA)  
10:30 ..... Jordan (RJ)  
12:20 ..... Cairo (MS)  
12:30 ..... Sharjah, Doha (GF)  
16:45 ..... Karachi, Damascus (PI)  
19:45 ..... Beirut (ME)  
20:10 ..... Jeddah (SU)  
21:45 ..... Larnaca (CY)

### 13:30 ..... Abu Dhabi (GF)

17:45 ..... Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PI)

### DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:30 ..... Rome (RJ)  
10:15 ..... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
10:30 ..... Berlin, London (RJ)  
10:30 ..... Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)  
11:40 ..... Istanbul (RJ)  
19:30 ..... Colombo (RJ)  
19:45 ..... Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)  
20:05 ..... Riyadh (RJ)  
20:30 ..... New Delhi (RJ)  
20:30 ..... Aden (RJ)  
21:00 ..... Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)  
22:45 ..... Samara (RJ)

### MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple ..... 850/600  
Banana ..... 600  
Banana (Mukammal) ..... 620  
Beans ..... 850 / 600  
Cabbage ..... 140 / 80  
Carrot ..... 400/300  
Cauliflower ..... 300 / 200  
Clementine ..... 150 / 100  
Cucumbers [large] ..... 280 / 200  
Cucumbers [small] ..... 280 / 200  
Eggplant ..... 280 / 200  
Grape ..... 900 / 750  
Guava ..... 450/350  
Lemon ..... 200 / 120  
Lemon (small) ..... 140 / 80  
Marrow (large) ..... 340 / 250  
Marrow (small) ..... 340 / 250  
Mushroom ..... 250 / 180  
Onion (dry) ..... 230 / 140  
Pepper (hot) ..... 230 / 140  
Pepper (sweet) ..... 240 / 180  
Potato ..... 340 / 250  
Tomato ..... 130 / 60  
Spinach ..... 320 / 250

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

08:30 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
09:00 ..... Jordan (RJ)  
09:00 ..... Larnaca (RJ)  
10:30 ..... London (RJ)  
10:30 ..... Frankfurt (RJ)  
17:00 ..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
17:25 ..... Brussels, Paris (RJ)  
17:30 ..... Istanbul (RJ)  
18:10 ..... Montreal, Toronto (RJ)  
18:10 ..... Madrid, Geneva (RJ)  
18:40 ..... Rome (RJ)



## NEWS IN BRIEF

## King congratulates Azerbaijani president

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a cable to the president of Azerbaijan congratulating him on his election and wishing him continued good health and happiness and the people of Azerbaijan further progress and prosperity.

## Kaabneh meets with Australian commander

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Lieutenant-General Abdul Hafez Mirai Al Kaabneh Tuesday received Commander Maron Bonser, captain of the Australian ship Sidney currently docked in Aqaba. The meeting was attended by the commander of the Royal Marine Force and the Australian ambassador to Jordan.

## Cabinet approves \$6.3m U.N. wildlife grant

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Tuesday announced its approval of a grant of \$6.3 million to Jordan from the United Nations Environment Fund. The grant will finance projects designed to develop wildlife reserves at Dana and Azraq. Minister of Planning Ziad Fariz has been authorised to sign the agreement. The Cabinet also Tuesday announced the appointment of Ihsan Shurdoun and Walid Bataineh as ambassadors at the Foreign Ministry and the retirement of ambassadors Nabih Al Nimer and Saad Bataineh. Another Cabinet announcement said it appointed Mahmoud Shahed as Ministry of Health secretary general.

## Voters can pick up cards until 4 p.m.

AMMAN (Petra) — Voter card distribution centres will remain open daily, except Fridays, until 4 p.m., two hours beyond regular office hours, according to an announcement Tuesday by Interior Minister Salameh Hammad. The minister said that the decision was taken to enable citizens to get their voting cards after office hours.

## QAF to provide physiotherapy

AMMAN (Petra) — The Khalidieh Chapter of Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF) will offer physiotherapy services to children suffering from cerebral palsy starting Thursday. The free treatment will be offered once a week. The programme is in line with the fund's policy to provide basic services to children in their different locales.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

## EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by international artists at the National Art Gallery.
- ★ Photo and painting exhibition on environment at the University of Jordan Exhibition Hall.
- ★ Exhibition of Chinese products at the International Exhibition Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Sabah Hadidi at the Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).
- ★ Art exhibition entitled "The Spirit of the Youth" by artist Muhammad Al Lahham at the Baladna Art Gallery.
- ★ The Jordan International Exhibition displaying electric equipment and appliances, furniture, carpets, food items, chemicals, cosmetics, flowers, marble, and tiles at the Amman International Fair.
- ★ The 4th Amman International Computer Exhibition at the Amman International Car Show.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Farouq Lambaz at the Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ The Petra Exhibition — a presentation of the activities of Jordanian and international institutions involved in archaeological, ethnographic and environmental research in the Petra region at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Caricature drawings exhibition by late cartoonist Najji Al Ali at the Pakistani Universities Alumni Club in Jabal Amman.
- ★ Exhibition of handicrafts at Abu Jaber estate, Yaloudah (next to Kan Zaman).
- ★ Art exhibition by artists Abir Al Bawab, Michael 'Ujalat, Muhammad Abu Affeh, Amani Masha'al, and Muhammad Abu Aziz at Abu Neir Club.
- ★ Art exhibition by artists Mahmoud Taha and Salman Abbas at Ab'ad Art Gallery.
- ★ Photo exhibition displaying pictures from Jordan and Syria by German artist J. Swakowski at the Goethe Institute.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Ali Talib at the Balka's Art Gallery in Al Faleh.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Mahmoud Al-Ubaidi at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of Etchings by Mohammad Omar Khalil at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation in Jabal Laweidh. Also showing the permanent exhibition. Telephone 643251/2.

## FILMS

- ★ Feature film entitled "On the Black Hill" at the British Council at 7:00 p.m. (115 mins.).

## SPORTS ROUND-UP

- ★ A one-hour programme featuring a condensation of the most popular football games of the week with play-by-play announcement at the American Center at 5:00 p.m.

## LECTURES

- ★ Lecture entitled "Le Dessin Contemporain" by Noël Favreliere at the French Cultural Centre at 6:00 p.m.

## Minister denies reports of bread price hike

AMMAN (J.T.) — Reports appearing in the local press about an imminent hike in the price of bread are totally untrue, according to Minister of Supply Radi Ibrahim.

In a letter to the Jordan Times, the minister said that there was no truth to the reports published earlier in Al Ra'i Arabic daily and the Jordan Times that the government intended to reduce the subsidy on a number of basic food stuffs including bread in 1994.

The reports had said that the ministry had decided to raise by five to 10 fils a kilo the price of locally baked bread as part of its gradual move to end the subsidies on basic food stuffs. Mr. Ibrahim said the subject of removing subsidies has been

discussed neither by the Cabinet nor the Ministry of Supply, but, he added, a committee has been set up to study the cost of a loaf of bread and the results of the study should not necessarily lead to a hike in bread prices.

He said the rumours in the press could have resulted from speculations about the situation following the formation of the cost study committee.

Mr. Ibrahim said the Council of Ministers has approved a reduction on the price of barley sold to cattle and sheep breeders, from JD 90 to JD 80 per tonne.

He said the subsidised barley price of JD 65 a tonne will not change.

## \$227,000 will finance UNDP-assisted project

AMMAN (J.T.) — An agreement was signed Monday at the Ministry of Planning to finance a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-assisted project entitled "Implementation of Development Policies and Programmes with Special Reference to Rolling Type Plan 1993-1997."

The total UNDP input amount to \$227,000, constituting \$200,000 to cover the cost of national consultant services, \$14,000 for training of national staff, and \$7,000 for the purchase of necessary equipment.

An in-kind contribution of JD 133,000 will be made by the government, according to UNDP statement.

The project is intended to strengthen the Ministry of Planning capabilities in implementing the rolling type plan for the years 1993-97 by training and enhancing the skills of 16 national staff especially successfully implementing the rolling type plan through continued monitoring of its progress, reviewing targets and policies and recommending changes to them in order to achieve the revised targets and the stated development objectives of the plan.

The agreement was signed by Minister of Planning Ziad Fariz and Osman Hashim, UNDP resident representative in Jordan.

## JNRCS team heads for talks in U.K.

AMMAN (J.T.) — A four-member delegation representing the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) left for the United Kingdom Tuesday to take part in a general assembly meeting of the International Movement of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies which will be held in Birmingham between Oct. 22 and 30.

The delegation leader, Mohammad Mitaq Al Hadid, said discussions will include humanitarian aid to the victims of natural disasters, the movement's strategic working plan, ensuring that movement's societies carry out their work

with integrity and the role of women in developing the movement.

Dr. Hadid, who is also JNRCS president, told the Jordan Times that the general assembly will hear reports from its health development, financial, youth, and natural disaster commissions on the movement's work.

Dr. Hadid will also attend an annual meeting by Arab societies taking part in the general assembly gathering to chart ways of ensuring support for Arab Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in their drive to carry out humanitarian work.

## Symposium to tackle parasitic diseases

AMMAN (J.T.) — Parasitic and zoonotic diseases (and of the various diseases that can be transmitted to humans from living organisms and animals) will be discussed at a three-day symposium at the University of Jordan next month.

The Jordanian Dermatological and Venerological Society is organising the meeting in cooperation with the university, the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) and the International Development Research Centre, Canada according to a society announcement.

The meeting, which will open on Nov. 23, under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, is to be held under the slogan "Man's Health and Commu-

nity diseases and Their Relationship to the Environment and Development."

The society said that several diseases will be tackled in a number of working papers to be reviewed by delegates from Jordan and Arab and foreign countries.

The participants, all specialists are expected to exchange information, discuss their experiences and review their countries' cooperation in combating diseases common to humans and animals, the society said.

The possibility of creating a national information centre on such diseases with its headquarters in Amman is also on the agenda of the deliberations, the announcement said.

## Dimona reactor threats to be covered in environmental awareness activity

AMMAN (J.T.) — Facts about the possible threats from the Dimona nuclear reactor in Israel as well as a lecture on the environmental dimension in the democratisation process are part of a national environmental information and education programme to start Sunday in Tafleeh.

The Jordanian Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution (JSCEP) in cooperation with the German Friedrich Naumann Foundation, is organising the four-day environmental activity, said a JSCEP statement Tuesday.

Events will include a visit by students from various schools in Tafleeh to the Mobile Exhibition Unit which aims to create environ-

mental awareness and educate the students.

Lectures on local and global environmental issues will be delivered and special local environmental documentary films will be shown.

It is estimated that about 1,000 students will attend the activities. Related publications in Arabic by JSCEP will be provided to each school to enrich their libraries with environmental references.

According to JSCEP, with much fear spreading among Jordanians in the south and mainly among Tafleeh residents concerning radiation from the Dimona reactor, 35 miles west of Tafleeh in Israel, an evening session on Oct. 25 will be dedicated to this issue, and specialists

from the Ministries of Energy, Health will shed light on the subject with data, scientific facts as well as legal approaches to deal with the issue.

In addition, as the country is approaching the first multiparty parliamentary elections in 40 years, a lecture concerning the environmental dimension within the democratisation of Jordan will be presented.

On Tuesday, Oct. 26, an evening session will be held in Kadesiyeh, a town 30 kilometres east of Tafleeh. The session will tackle the issue of mining and quarries with lectures on the requirements and specifications for licensing mining and quarries followed by a lecture on eco-

tourism and natural reserves in Kadesiyeh. There will also be lecture on mining and quarrying in Al Rashadih area and on environmental protection steps. Legal approaches to dealing with local environmental issues will also be reviewed.

The evening session will start at 4 p.m. and will be conducted in the form of panel discussions, where an appropriate atmosphere for dialogue and debate will be provided, said the JSCEP statement.

The sessions will host participants from public and private sectors in Tafleeh, JSCEP members and residents of Tafleeh and Kadesiyeh.



VISITING U.N. OFFICIAL: Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Tuesday receives in his office Peter Hansen, assistant U.N. secretary general, who is currently on a tour of the Middle

East. Dr. Majali and Mr. Hansen reviewed the Middle East peace process and ways to speed it up, as well as the United Nations' related role

## Seminar tackles economic reform

AMMAN (Petra) — Participants in a three-day conference, entitled "Future Horizons in Changing World" Tuesday pursued their discussions, beginning with a working paper prepared by Arab Thought Forum Secretary General Ali Umleil, on the political and economic situation in the Arab World.

The paper stressed the need for turning the government institutions into democratic ones and respecting pluralistic ideas.

A second paper on the Arab labour force markets, presented by Tayser Abdul Jabbar, former labour minister.

Mr. Abdul Jabbar said the Arab labour force represents 30 per cent of the total Arab population of 230 million. He added that while the gross national product (GNP) per capita in the Arab states of the Gulf is \$9,000, it is no more than \$820 in the rest of the Arab countries.

The third paper, prepared by Fahed Al Fanek, an economic analyst, dealt with the economic reform programme of the Jordanian government.

The fourth paper, entitled "Structural Adjustment or Economic Adjustment in the Developing Countries," reviewed the objectives of the economic adjustment programme.

## JVA awards JD 1.7m in contracts to local firms

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) Tuesday awarded contracts to two local firms, together worth JD 1,731,963: one for a feasibility study and the preparation of designs for the construction of the Fidan Dam in Wadi Araba and the other for the installation of equipment to gauge the water level of the King Abdullah Canal.

JVA Secretary General Abdul Aziz Wishah, who signed the two contracts, said that the Fidan Dam is expected to store up to two million cubic metres of rain water to be used for irrigation.

Preliminary studies showed that the Fidan Dam could be built to a height of 15 metres,

said Mr. Wishah after the signing ceremony.

The estimated cost of the feasibility study for this project now stands at JD 87,205 and the firm that undertook to prepare the study is under contract to complete the work by the middle of 1994, said Mr. Wishah.

In light of the feasibility study, he added, the JVA will announce a tender for the construction of the dam, which is expected to take one year.

Referring to the equipment to gauge the water level, Mr. Wishah said that the equipment will be installed at 14 stations along the King Abdullah Canal in the Jordan Valley. He explained that the

measurements will be taken before and after the opening of the canal gates.

The project, he added, is needed by the JVA to control water consumption in the Jordan Valley.

Also, the project entails setting up a central control and supervisory unit at the JVA office in the Jordan Valley to be linked to a computer system which will analyse the information and print out the results.

The second project is estimated to cost JD 1,644,758 and is to be financed by the treasury and a loan from the German Development Bank.

Dr. Wishah said the installation of the equipment is expected to take one year.



NATURE WORKS ON DISPLAY: Deputising for His Royal Highness Prince Ra'ad Ben Zeid, Her Royal Highness Princess Rajwah Bint Ali Monday evening opened

an exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Farouq Lambaz at Alia Art Gallery. On display until Oct. 28 are 35 works depicting popular life and natural scenery in Jordan.

## Jordan could play leading role in regional trade — report

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The U.S. embassy in Jordan has undertaken a series of moves, described as aimed at promoting business and economic links between the U.S. and the Kingdom and encouraging Jordanian businessmen to interact with American firms.

The latest event, organised by the economic and commercial section of the embassy, was a gathering on Thursday of Jordanian businessmen for "an exchange of ideas and views," said Rassim Abdul Rahim, senior economic and commercial specialist at the section.

Mr. Abdul Rahim described the meeting as "highly positive" in that it offered an opportunity for the businessmen to "air their views and opinions" on the business climate in Jordan and suggest what could be, and should be, done to increase U.S.-Jordanian trade exchange, which is now heavily in the favour of the U.S.

Mr. Abdul Rahim, a Jordanian, denied that the gathering was aimed at facilitating Israeli commercial interests in the wake of the dramatic progress made in the Arab-Israeli peace process.

"It has always been the belief of the U.S. embassy here and the U.S. government that Jordan has a key role to play in regional trade," he told the Jordan Times.

He said an "assessment of Jordan's regional trade competitiveness," which he presented at the meeting, contained ideas that were prevalent for a long time.

"We could have written it six months ago or earlier," he said.

A copy of the document, made available to the Jordan Times, describes Jordan as "an increasingly ideal centre for regional business," but notes three major hurdles.

"Chronic administrative obstacles and red tape have to be removed," it said. "Due to restrictions and overlaps in government investment regula-

tions governing foreign investments, not all the American firms that have set up regional sales offices in Jordan since the early 1980s have benefited from doing business through Jordan."

The report took note of government moves to "eliminate all bureaucratic procedures that impede the implementation of a free economic system," and said that "a serious attempt to reduce bureaucratic control will open a new chapter in Jordan's regional trade competitiveness," it said.

The document, described by economic experts as representative of the strictly-business view of a majority of American companies, asserted that Jordan's boycott of Israel in line with the 43-year-old Arab League decision to isolate Israel "has historically hurt Jordan's competitiveness."

"Other Arab countries, which have implicitly relaxed restrictions against American firms dealing with Israel, have taken lucrative business oppor-

unities away from Jordan. Nevertheless, many foreign suppliers... are currently examining the Kingdom's position as an attractive corridor for markets that stretch east of the Suez Canal," it said.

The question that faces Jordan and its private as well as public sectors is, according to Mr. Abdul Rahim, how far the Kingdom and its business community are prepared to draw a new overall strategy to take advantage of its geo-political location and other domestic elements, including human resources, and emerge as a key regional trade centre.

Such a strategy involves basic changes in communication and information exchange and outlook vis-a-vis industrial production, trade regulations, quality control and priorities, Mr. Abdul Rahim said.

"There are thousands of American firms which are looking for investment and joint venture opportunities in Jordan," he said. "I don't believe that the image of Jordan

is bad in the U.S. as some businessmen say. The private sector should not complain that we at the embassy are not doing enough. They have to make an effort."

Among the measures that the government could undertake to improve prospects for regional business are, according to the assessment made by the U.S. embassy, include exemptions from taxes and introduction of next incentives, elimination of cumbersome customs and residence regulations for non-Jordanian employees of foreign companies, permission for the private sector to set up telephone networks, offshore banking arrangements, protection of copyrights and patents, permission for local representatives to sign contracts and tenders, and clear guidelines on local arrangements for agency contracts and representative companies.

The document noted that despite the high interest of international firms in Jordan as a Middle East regional base

when civil war erupted in Lebanon in mid-70s, the Kingdom lost ground to Cyprus because of the bureaucratic impediments and the lack of communications and administrative infrastructures.

Today, "Jordan should be able to achieve greater economic benefits from enhancing trade ties with the United States," the document said. "Hesitant to offer trade incentives to U.S. businessmen, such as those offered to European businessmen, (the government of Jordan) has closed many doors instead of exploring options."

The report noted that Aqaba was well suited to handle regional trade and enjoys an edge over other Red Sea ports in the immediate vicinity in terms of port handling charges, "restrictions on certain Islamic commodities for transshipment," and local security inspections.

As far as competition from the Israeli port of Eilat is concerned, the report noted,

Aqaba was more suitable for handling cargo as Eilat was more tourist-oriented.

Because of the international sanctions against Iraq, only one-fourth of the port's handling capabilities (about 25 containers per hour) are used, it noted.

Other highlights of the report were: "Jordanian traders find political stability, peace with Israel and a proposed Jordanian-Palestinian confederacy to be the major pillars of a promising future for Jordan. Those using Jordan for transshipments contend that it is now 'the transit country.'"

"After a peace settlement, Jordan will be strategically placed to link Asia with Europe via the fastest land routes. Jordanian traders challenge that, under any peace option or accord, a new wave of investors may migrate to Jordan, which should take back its lost role and win the battle of regional competitiveness."

"Arab trading systems,

viewed individually as systems governed by their respective political and social frameworks, vary in the degree of their attractiveness to business seeking a regional base. Jordan's democratic political system, strategic geographical position and its educated human resource make it one of the most competitive regional business centre."

"To adopt a free economic system, encourage domestic and foreign investments, develop human and natural resources, and achieve steady economic growth is a one-track choice for Jordan. Moreover, attractiveness to regional business prospects is one of the standards which international businessmen use to measure Jordan's regional trade competitiveness."

"Jordan has the potential to rank first in the Near/Middle East regions with the adoption of open trade policies, a long-term commitment to modernisation, and a stable legal and regulatory environment."



## Jordan Times

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## Holistic approach works

OVER THE past 40 years, the Middle East witnessed several major wars, much civil strife and constant streams of refugees and displaced people fleeing war zones and the tyranny of occupation. The largest community of refugees lives today in almost every country of the region. Conflicts, at the centre of which has been the Palestinian-Israeli battle over the land of Palestine, have been fuelled by both regional and world powers. Generation after generation in this part of the world have endured the harshest conditions created by wars, invasions, civil strife and inequality. For decades people lost confidence in themselves and others. Now, there seems to be hope at the end of the tunnel, where peace can be made between the Arab World and Israel, and a settlement of the Palestinian problem would be just, comprehensive and lasting.

But to achieve that kind of peace, the grievances of all states, especially their peoples, must be addressed. No country, be it Syria, Iran or Iraq, should be left out. And no single group of people, whether Shi'ite or Sunni, refugee or displaced, Kurd or Palestinian, should be sacrificed for the sake of pleasing the other.

Jordan has always called for a new regional order based on non-interference in the affairs of others, and on respect for human rights, democracy and free trade. Based on this, it would not be right to advance peace on one track and leave others stagnant. It would not be right to free one people, the Palestinians, and keep another, the Iraqis, captive. It would not be right to try to integrate an alien identity, Israel, in the region and alienate an indigenous one, Iran. It is not enough to address the needs of Palestinians in the occupied territories and neglect those of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan.

Now that the Palestinian-Israeli accord has created a seemingly unstoppable momentum, it would be wise to create a parallel regional mechanism to tackle the overall issue of peace and security in the region. A regional forum modelled on the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the CSCE, grouping the countries of the Middle East, North Africa, the Europeans, the U.S. and Russia, can be used as a vehicle that would address the wider issues of regional security, cooperation and development. But such a conference, or, a CSCME, as was actually proposed earlier, would not succeed, assuming that its idea gets off the ground, unless everybody concerned becomes party to it. There would be no sense or wisdom, for instance, in excluding countries like Iraq and Iran from such an endeavour on the pretext of Iraqis or Iranians harbouring terrorism and radicalism, as some people advocate.

For such an idea to bear fruit, all players, no matter how well or ill perceived, must participate. Otherwise anyone left out will do his best to torpedo the whole effort.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL DUSTOUR Arabic daily Tuesday questioned Israel's drive to acquire more sophisticated weapons at a time when it claims it is working for peace. With great joy, the Israelis yesterday announced their acquisition of a new battery of modern Patriot rockets, believed to be more developed than those used during the Gulf war, said the paper. It is strange to see this development, but even stranger to hear that Germany has financed the cost, paying \$102 million for the battery, said the paper. It is our right to ask about Israel's real intentions for acquiring modern weapons at a time when peace seems to be near; and it is our right to ask Germany why it is financing armament at a time when Arab countries look towards Bonn for financing the peace process and development schemes needed to enhance peace, added the paper. The Jewish state is massing modern weapons in order to use them against the Arabs and in order to pursue its expansionist quest in the Arab World, while Germany and the United States are helping the Israelis to achieve their goal at a time when they claim to be making peace efforts, the paper continued.

COMMENTING ON the current election campaign, Mufid Nahleh said in Al Rai Tuesday that the voters should focus their attention on electing only those candidates who dedicate their time and effort to help solve the problems of unemployment and poverty in Jordan. Jordan is plagued with poverty and unemployment, affecting thousands of families, and is in need of deputies who can come up with solutions and work diligently towards dealing with the situation, said the writer. Candidates running for election next month have to compete in a race to solve the country's problems.

# Commonwealth should struggle to assert itself in the world arena

By G.H. Jansen

NICOSIA — The report to be presented to the Commonwealth heads of government, meeting in Cyprus from October 21-25, by the organisation's secretary general, Emeka Anaoku, has a curiously remote and unrealistic air. While referring to the multitude of tasks undertaken by the Commonwealth — promoting or buttressing democracy, fostering economic development and establishing a non-racial South Africa — Chief Anaoku fails to address the organisation's self-imposed limitations when discussing how it is to perform in the post-cold war era.

In 46 years the Commonwealth has made little political impress on world affairs despite the fact that it has 50 members, of all races, colours and religions, spread across five continents, with a population of a billion and a half, with one in four people on the face of the earth being a Commonwealth citizen. There are four reasons for this lack of impact, two of them failures of leadership.

The first war, of course, by Britain which emerged exhausted and bankrupt from World War II and in no position to lead the emerging, multiracial Commonwealth. Indeed, Britain did not even try to lead; instead, it tucked itself beneath the American nuclear umbrella, for safety's sake, and campaigned to join the European economic club, for reasons of trade. The British were also psychologically unwilling to participate fully in this other sort of club, with a membership of former black and brown colonial subjects who sought equal treatment and partnership.

This lack of commitment to the Commonwealth as an independent force in world affairs was accompanied by small mindedness in the Commonwealth relations office, which did whatever it could to devalue and frustrate the endeavour to make the Commonwealth into a

political force, a fact amply testified to by the first secretary general, the Canadian Arnold Smith.

The obvious alternative to Britain as Commonwealth leader was India which, after independence, created the Commonwealth after it chose to form an association with Britain. But India became preoccupied with non-alignment as the third force in world affairs, as the alternative to the two power blocs. So India never exerted itself to promote the Commonwealth as such a force. To make matters worse, India was distracted by Kashmir and is now fighting a war of attrition there, a war it cannot win.

*"In 46 years the Commonwealth has made little political impress on world affairs despite the fact that it has 50 members, of all races, colours and religions, spread across five continents, with a population of a billion and a half, with one in four people on the face of the earth being a Commonwealth citizen."*

The third cause was parochialism, which has been caused by the Commonwealth's own preoccupation with the endless problem of its African members.

The fourth reason for failure is more recent: the collapse of the Soviet Bloc, which removed the space for manoeuvre between East and West and brought all the world's countries face to face with a sole superpower. Since the last Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting (CHOGM) in Harare in 1991, world politics have changed out of all recognition. Although before 1991 the world was moving away from bipolarity towards unipolarity, the full import of what had happened had not

impressed itself on the minds of policy makers. But on the heels of the collapse of the Soviet Union came the U.S.-led "Desert Storm" campaign against Iraq. This was meant to herald a "new world order" where invasion and aggression did not pay. Indeed, this new world order was also supposed to right the wrongs committed in the past, the most immediate being resolution of the half-century-old Arab-Israeli problem through a U.S.-brokered peace process, launched at Madrid in October 1991.

However, the new world order of the sole superpower, Pax Americana, did not emerge as a neutral ordering of political affairs. The Middle Eastern region offers several examples of how, on the one hand, the U.S. refuses to discipline friends and allies, to the extent of frustrating international efforts to do so, while, on the other, it adopts punitive policies towards countries which resist Washington's ordering of world affairs.

One-third of Cyprus, CHOGM's host country, continues to be occupied by troops from Turkey, an ally of the U.S. which has not put pressure on Ankara to withdraw and permit U.N. peace-makers to secure a negotiated settlement between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities.

Although Arab-Israeli peace talks were convened, Israel, the strategic partner of the U.S., was able to stall progress for many months in order to remain in occupation of Palestinian, Syrian, Lebanese and Jordanian territory. Instead of taking action to make Israel comply with Security Council resolutions 242 and 425, calling upon it to withdraw from these territories, Washington allowed the peace process to drift. The dramatic breakthrough between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was achieved in spite of — rather than because of — Washington's peace-making efforts, at

ter Israel decided to negotiate directly and secretly with the PLO in order to freeze out members of the U.S. administration who would make common cause with Israeli opponents of the peace process.

While doing nothing against Israel and Turkey, the U.S. continues to insist on the imposition of punitive sanctions against Iraq, although it ceased occupying Kuwait in 1991 and has since complied with U.N. resolutions on eliminating its weapons of mass destruction. The U.S. has also imposed sanctions against Libya and added Sudan to its list of "terrorist" states, although their violations of the international order are far less serious than those of Turkey and Israel. This has led to charges that the new world order is based on double standards.

The most dangerous activity of the U.S. for the Third World is its support for secessionist minorities in Iraq, Afghanistan, Angola and Mozambique which could lead to backing for similarly situated minorities elsewhere.

In addition to its lack of a balanced approach, the U.S. has demonstrated a failure of nerve when it comes to dealing promptly with conflicts.

In the Balkans, there is of course the whole Yugoslav imbroglio, where the Christian Serbs have been able to get away with the dismembering of Bosnia and the practice mass "ethnic cleansing."

Thus, instead of there being a new world order, a true Pax Americana, in which the sole remaining superpower uses its power to resolve problems, the U.S. has either done little or used its position to perpetuate and even exacerbate conflicts. This has been true in Bosnia and, above all, in Somalia, where intervention at the appropriate time could have brought gunmen under control and preserved some sort of stability and polity. But the problem with the U.S. is that it is

reluctant to become involved in "quagmires", clumsy in the use of its massive firepower and unwilling to take military casualties. Therefore, it habitually arrives too late, overuses its force and then pulls out too early. On the one hand, America behaves like a bull in a china shop or, on the other, like Ferdinand the bull who preferred to sit in a field smelling the flowers instead of going into the bullring to fight.

The only alternative to present disorder is for a body of nations with some common tie to get together to provide leadership. This the U.N. failed to do because it is too large and the non-aligned because it is too disparate. The

*"The only alternative to present disorder is for a body of nations with some common tie to get together to provide leadership. This the U.N. failed to do because it is too large and the non-aligned because it is too disparate. The smaller Commonwealth might, if it so decided, have more success precisely because it did not become embroiled in cold war conflicts."*

smaller Commonwealth might, if it so decided, have more success precisely because it did not become embroiled in cold war conflicts. Therefore, its low profile, like that of Norway which acted as a facilitator in the Israel-PLO negotiations, could be an advantage.

But if the Commonwealth is to rise to the challenge, it will need leadership. This, obviously, will not come from Britain, which remains totally tied to the U.S., cannot come from India and should not come from Canada, in spite of its good Commonwealth record, or from Australia, because they too are, too close to Washington. Faced with a divided, Bangladesh, hopelessly waterlogged,

Nigeria is, and probably will remain, in a state of flux. South Africa, once it is readmitted, is a possibility, particularly if it is led by the great man, Nelson Mandela.

An outsider, Malaysia, though a small country, could serve as an interim leader because it is sufficiently well-off economically to afford independence. It hosted CHOGM in 1989 and its prime minister headed its High Level Group which reported on the future of the organisation. Its main asset is the personality of its Prime Minister Mahatir Muhammad, a man of independence of mind and speech.

However, diversity could discourage all 50 members from adopting an independent line. But the Commonwealth could begin by tackling problems on which many could agree, like Bosnia where the western powers have been doing everything they can to prevent the establishment of a Muslim majority state in the southeast of "Christian" (or post-Christian) Europe.

The trail towards independence would have to be blazed by a small group of countries operating informally and in an ad hoc manner. This group would also have to be determined and cohesive enough to be prepared to resist pressure from the U.S. which does not like to be challenged and could be expected to try to punish its challengers. The chances of such a group emerging from the Commonwealth are not very bright, but however slim, the effort must be made because of the dangers produced by the present situation.

If the Commonwealth does not rise to the challenge, it will not fade away but will continue to do good work in the economic and social spheres while remaining ineffective and absent on the political scene. This brings to mind the minatory words of the English poet Thomas Gray: "Heedless of their coming, fate the little victims play."

## Most republics wary of Russian peacekeeping role

By Rostislav Khotin  
Reuter

KIEV — Two weeks after former Soviet republics backed President Boris Yeltsin in a bloody showdown with parliament, most are suspicious about Russian plans to take on the role of peacekeeper on what was once Soviet territory.

Despite divergent interests, leaders from the Baltics and Moldova in the west through volatile Transcaucasia to Central Asia view Mr. Yeltsin as the sole leader capable of preventing Russian instability spreading across their borders. But Russia's desire to obtain a United Nations-backed mandate to mediate in conflicts within the Commonwealth of Independent States generates scepticism or downright hostility from states jealously guarding their newfound independence.

Only Tajikistan, dependent on Russian military help to beat back Islamic insurgents, supports the idea, along with possibly Armenia, which is in a six-member Russian-led military pact.

"No one can claim the role of policeman. We will never agree to such a role for Russia," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoly Zlenko told Reuters.

"I hope the world community will not support this idea, even if some former Soviet republics may do so," Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev promoted the notion at the U.N. General Assembly last month, calling for a U.N. mandate and financing, perhaps through a voluntary fund.

The U.N., which has deployed 80,000 "blue beret" forces in 17 trouble spots around the world, is happy to let Russia tackle conflicts in Georgia, the disputed Transcaucasian area of Nagorno-Karabakh or Moldova's break-away Dnestro region.

But extending a mandate and providing cash would be another matter. Senior officials from former Soviet republics say western diplomats privately share their concerns about Russia trying to maintain its strategic interests.

Most republics where Russia has become involved in mediation or peacekeeping are firmly opposed to the idea.

Georgia's leader, former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, is deeply critical of Moscow's actions after separatists violated a Russian-hrokered ceasefire to seize the Black Sea region of Abkhazia.

"We oppose any notion of Russian peacekeeping," Georgian Deputy Foreign Minister Makhaz Kabadze said by telephone.

"Events in Abkhazia show that Russia cannot be an unbiased mediator and inevitably displays its sympathies with one side or another in any conflict."

Leaders in Moldova, where former Soviet troops maintain a ceasefire in and around the Russian-speaking Dnestro region, see Russia's role strictly as one of destabilisation.

"Russia's role is to create instability inside republics pursuing an independent line rather than falling in with Moscow's policies," said Nicolae Chirtoaca, security adviser to Moldovan President Mircea Snegur.

In the Baltics, governments remain wary of the continued presence of tens of thousands of troops in Latvia and Estonia.

"Russia is not impartial in post-Soviet affairs," said Vaino Reinart, a spokesman for Estonia's Foreign Ministry. "That's why there can be no talk of any Russian peacekeeping."

In Central Asia, diplomats said most of the newly independent states would be reluctant to recognise any role for Russia in settling recurrent disputes.

"Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan have become staunchly independent," said one diplomat in the Uzbek capital Tashkent. "They are not likely to welcome any plans which may reassert Russian influence."

The exception is Tajikistan, where 15,000 Russians are deployed, many on the border with Afghanistan, to pre-empt attacks by Islamic rebels and their Mujahadeen allies.

## To build and be built by a Palestinian state

The writer is the Palestinian affairs correspondent of the Israeli English-language daily Jerusalem Post. The following article appeared as a "comment" in the Oct. 14, 1993, issue of the newspaper under the same headline.

By Jon Immanuel

FEW PEOPLE participate in establishing a nation once. Jews of the post-Holocaust generation have the opportunity to do it twice here.

At Tabas and in Cairo, Israel initiated a process of cooperation with Palestinians whose success will be measured by their ability to create efficient democratic institutions.

The more successful this process is, the more likely it is to end in a Palestinian state.

Today, both Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres say they oppose a Palestinian state. But looking several years down the road, the issue is simple. A democratic state cannot prevent another democratic society acknowledged to be a different nation from becoming an independent state.

Such a state would be something new in the Arab World. It would have strong relations with Israel, and by definition it would not be threatening. It would share many facets of Israel's political culture. It would have no army worth the name because, as a democracy next to a democracy, it will perform a simple cost-benefit analysis and see that money spent on an army would be better spent on education.

But if it thought otherwise, the very act of demanding the right to station tanks near Israel would invalidate its claim to statehood.

The issue over which there will be tough negotiations will be the borders of that state. Israel's argument that the 1967 borders are "Auschwitz borders" was true in 1967 but will have little meaning if negotiations between two democratic societies move both toward a totally new situation.

By the time final talks begin, the argument over allocation of water resources and the traumatic relocation of tens of thousands of settlers will be,

more important than security issues, which should have been largely resolved during the interim period.

The Palestinians now argue that the settlers are there illegally in defiance of "international legitimacy" and must leave. But under the terms of the negotiations both sides are

*"By the time final talks begin, the argument over allocation of water resources and the traumatic relocation of tens of thousands of settlers will be more important than security issues, which should have been largely resolved during the interim period."*

committed to jettisoning past conceptions and understanding that the future must be based on the realities of the present.

The more democratic the Palestinian society is, the easier it will be to argue that settlers can stay inside a Palestinian state either as Israelis or even as dual Israeli-Palestinian citizens.

Much will depend on the attitude of the settlers. But if the Palestinian state is strongly influenced by ethnic considerations and threatened by non-democratic forces inside its society, Israel will have a stronger case for annexing land across the Green Line. Maybe it would "lease" land for a fixed period until democracy becomes more firmly entrenched in Palestinian society.

Israel's demands would probably be opposed by a Palestinian government, claiming that Israel's very refusal to withdraw to the Green Line encourages Palestinian extremists. But that is precisely the kind of vicious cycle that the current negotiations are designed to break.

In many respects the Israeli-PLO accord is like the Camp David agreement. It calls for "a strong police force," while Camp David ambiguously calls for a "strong local police force," including "Jordanian citizens" who could be from either side of the river.

But in some ways the Declaration of Principles is less clear than Camp David. Camp David calls for "a continuing committee to decide by agreement on the modalities of admission of persons displaced

from the West Bank and Gaza in 1967."

The Israeli-PLO agreement says only that "the future status of displaced Palestinians who were registered on June 4, 1967, will not be unable to participate in the election process due to practical reasons."

However, the issue is less in

the precise wording than in the dynamics. For one thing, the agreement with the PLO is an agreement with "outside" Palestinians. Secondly, it is a more direct agreement with the Palestinians than anyone could have imagined, including the participation in negotiations of acknowledged "terrorists."

Thirdly, it resurrects, even reinvents, the PLO. The first fact points towards principles of peoplehood, statehood and return or compensation for all refugees. The second fact points to a bonding between Israel-Palestine as negotiations focus on each other's interests and needs rather than on general Arab interests and vague formulas such as "international legitimacy."

The Declaration of Principles does not refer to "occupied" territories and the reference to U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 would be implied by the very nature of the Declaration of Principles, even if there was no reference to 242.

The third fact points to the mutual dependence of the PLO and the Labour government. If either side "betrays" the bold principles of the Declaration of Principles, it is reasonable to assume that in four years, neither will exist.

Let's stop talking and start implementing and be proud of our country and most of all of our people whom we should trust.

Adeeb Hissat,  
Salah Suheimat,  
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are return of unused manuscripts.

## LETTERS

### Misplaced help

To the Editor:

On Sunday Oct. 10, we read in your newspaper the advertisement "RJ Goes Formula" about its support to Paul Stewart Racing who is running teams in international Formula 3000, Formula 3 and Formula Vauxhall Lotus. We were very surprised about it. Here in Jordan we have quite a few good, enthusiastic racing drivers who are not able to compete because of lack of funds and lack of sponsorships. Instead of giving the opportunity and stimulating our sport here in Jordan, they are our "wings to the world" which help ourselves to be noticed in international arena?

Let's stop talking and start implementing and be proud of our country and most of all of our people whom we should trust.

Adeeb Hissat,  
Salah Suheimat,  
Amman.



## Flood of rural migrants changes face of Istanbul

By Clelia Ozil  
Reuter

ISTANBUL — Ayse Genc readjusted her headscarf with a tired smile and sat on the pavement outside her ramshackle house near the old walls of Istanbul.

"I left my village and came here to find a job," she said, jiggling two gold bracelets on her arm, her only savings since she arrived from a Black Sea village near Amasra two years ago.

Ayşe, her husband Mehmet and one of her three children work in Istanbul factories, earning a total of five million lira (\$420) a month, 10 times Mehmet's wage as a shopkeeper back home.

An estimated 1,000 people a day arrive in the city from central Anatolian and Black Sea regions where modern farming methods have made many agricultural workers redundant.

Istanbul is a magnet for Kurds fleeing the separatist guerrilla insurgency which has killed more than 7,300 people in the impoverished southeast in the past nine years.

The city is also home to hundreds of thousands of exiles from Iran, Bulgaria, Bosnia, Romania, Albania and Macedonia.

Migration coupled with fast economic growth has turned Istanbul into a city of sharp contrasts. Skyscrapers sprout next to slums. Street scenes of girls in mini-skirts walking past women swathed in black chadors are not uncommon.

"This is the most dynamic process Turkey has ever created," said urban sociologist Professor Mubeccel Kiray. "Istanbul has a very open economy, one that can boom with every wave of inflation."

The migrants, who bring with them their headscarves, shalvars (baggy trousers) and other village traditions, often find their first jobs in the informal economy as car-park attendants, shoe-polishers, pedlars or lottery ticket sellers.

Some have prospered, starting their own businesses, moving to richer neighbourhoods and adopting city lifestyles. Many are torn by the con-

trast between their traditional background and the unfamiliar city ways. Sociologists identify such disorientation as a factor behind perceived increases in crime, drug abuse and left-wing, Kurdish or Islamic militancy.

"Migration is corrupting our society," said Medni Karisman, an engineer from a long-established Istanbul family.

"This city used to be the mosaic of world cultures. Now it's a mosaic of Anatolian cultures."

The muddy hills where Ayşe lives overlook the Kagithane River. Forty years ago townsfolk took pleasure boat rides on the river. Now it is a backwater by industrial waste.

Rains often flood Ayşe's neighbourhood, where some families are crammed into single rooms. Some children start working at the age of 10. Some men have more than one wife, a practice permitted by Islam but officially outlawed in secular Turkey.

Kagithane presents a face of Istanbul different from the glittering blend of history and modernity emphasised by the

promoters of its unsuccessful bid for the 2000 Olympic games.

Few people in Ayşe's quarter have visited the sixth-century Byzantine Hagia Sophia Cathedral, the covered bazaar or even the Bosphorus waterway which separates Asia from Europe.

Istanbul, seized by the Byzantines by Ottoman Sultan Mehmet the Conqueror in 1453, has sprawled far beyond its ancient walls to occupy 5,712 square kilometres.

By 1990 the population had swelled to 7.5 million from 900,000 in 1945. It is expected to reach 18 million in 2010, official forecasts show.

This staggering growth has brought air pollution and traffic congestion and strained to the limits services such as roads, water, electricity, sewerage, transport, housing and schools.

"There is no way the municipality can stop this migration and no way to improve living standards in the city if it continues in such an unplanned manner," said Mehmet Yildiz, head of the Construction De-

partment of Istanbul Municipality.

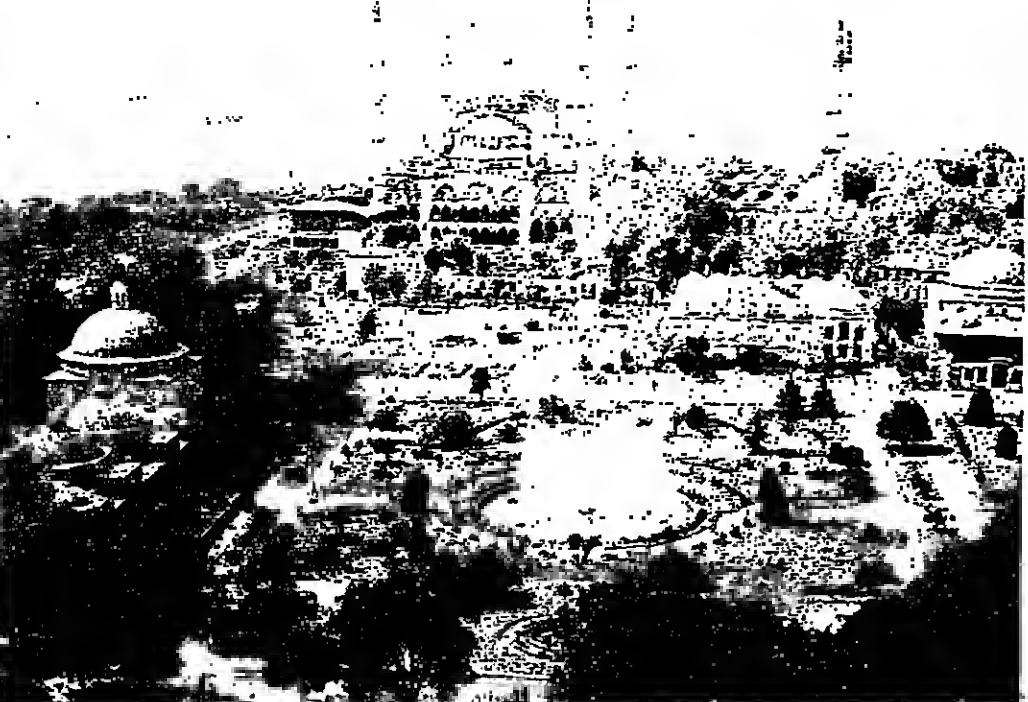
"If Turkey wants to be westernised, it has to encourage urbanisation," he told Reuters. "But the government must first draw up a plan for a more even development of the country."

Fifty-five per cent of Turkey's 60 million people live in cities, compared to 35 million in 1960. Mr. Yildiz said, adding that the figure would rise to 80 per cent in 2010.

Istanbul, which generates 45 per cent of the country's gross national product, absorbs 20 per cent of the rural migrants. Ankara takes nine per cent and Izmir seven per cent.

Agriculture's share in Turkey's gross domestic product had dropped to 15 per cent by 1992 from 42 per cent in 1950 — but nearly half the population still lives in the countryside.

"Immigration from rural areas is irreversible," said Mr. Kiray, the sociologist. "It will go on until the number of people working the land is reduced to that needed for mechanised agriculture."



Few rural migrants visit Istanbul's architectural landmarks like the Blue mosque with its six minarets outlined on the horizon (File photo)

## Experts favour CSCE-type Mideast conference security

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The Sept. 13 declaration of principles between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has opened the way for the establishment of a Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Middle East (CSCE), a panel of regional and U.S. experts have concluded.

In congressional testimony Oct. 14, Egypt's ambassador to the United States, Maher Al Sayed, Ambassador Abba Eban of Israel, and William Zartman, director of African Studies at Johns Hopkins University, expressed their belief that such a conference is not only feasible but also essential to strengthening the prospects for peace in the region.

The panel testified during a hearing of the Helsinki Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Senator Dennis DeConcini (Democrat of Arizona), chairman of the commission, and Congressman Steny Hoyer (Democrat of Maryland), co-chairman, expressed their commitment to the establishment of such an organisation for the Middle East.

A CSCE would be modelled on the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), established in 1975. The CSCE lays out a broad range of measures de-

signed to enhance security and cooperation, and includes provisions on military and security issues; economic, scientific, environmental and technological cooperation; and human rights. The U.S. Congress established the Helsinki Commission in 1976 to monitor compliance with the articles of the CSCE.

Noting the recent agreement between Israel and the PLO, Mr. DeConcini said "I believe the time has come for the peace process to find greater cohesion and direction in a CSCE-type context."

Mr. Hoyer pointed out that a Middle East security framework "could encourage regional security through arms control, verification, confidence-building, and respect for human rights." Furthermore, he argued, a multilateral conference would provide a needed framework for conflict resolution.

The Israeli view was represented by Mr. Eban, who said his country would view the establishment of a CSCE "as a positive development." Indeed, such a link between Israel and the Arab states "is both feasible and probably essential" to the success of the peace process, Mr. Eban added.

Mr. Sayed of Egypt noted that a CSCE-type organisation

for the Middle East would provide a vehicle for dialogue and reconciliation between the parties of the region... as well as open up opportunities for people-to-people exchanges." He cautioned, however, against tackling all issues at once, saying that one ought to "think incrementally." The success of the Middle East peace process "will open the way for further measures," such as eliminating weapons of mass destruction, he said.

Noting the importance of human rights to the CSCE framework, Mr. Hoyer asked how the Arab World would respond to this issue. Ambassador Sayed said "I don't know of any country that would in principle refuse to participate in a forum that would deal with human rights."

"I think that participating in such a process would certainly be very helpful towards enlarging a respect for human rights in the Middle East," he said.

Mr. Eban, now a professor at George Washington University, said "there is no unity amongst the peoples of the Middle East about the applicability of human rights." Despite this lack of consensus, a CSCE-type organisation for the Middle East must be based on the full participation of all states in the region, he stressed.

Mr. Eban said that he sees "more chance of cooperation on matters of security and on matters of economic development" than on the issue of human rights.

On the question of regional participation, William Zartman said, "the Middle East is plagued with a number of rogue players who will be difficult to bring into a CSCE process, and who, even if brought in, are not likely to be trustworthy participants." He cited the present regimes in Iraq, Libya and Sudan as examples.

However, these states "are marginal enough that their absence should not inhibit the creation of a security and cooperation conference," he maintained.

"Clearly it is important to make sure that Syria is brought into any CSCE, whose effectiveness would be vitiated without it," he said.

A CSCE should also include non-regional powers, such as the United States, Britain, France, Germany and Russia, Mr. Zartman said. The United States, he said, "should play its role as unobtrusively as possible."

"For CSCE to work effectively, its initiatives will have to be taken and performed by the parties of the region," he said.

## Islamists say they are targetted, issue warning

(Continued from page 1)

the last four years.

Dr. Farhan voiced confidence that his party would do well in the polls. "We are realistic and don't expect all our candidates to win," he said.

Of the 36 candidates running on the IAF ticket, contesting seats in every district, 16 are former deputies; one of the rest had lost his bid in 1989. Others are running for the first time.

The front, the political arm of the Muslim Brotherhood, has been touted as the biggest loser from the introduction of the one-person-one-vote formula into the electoral process,

analysts say.

Observers say the new electoral system will deny the Brotherhood the opportunity to repeat its performance in the 1989 elections when it won a number of parliamentary seats disproportionate to its actual grass-root support through the formation of alliances with other parties and independent candidates.

In the 1989 election, the Brotherhood won 23 seats in the 80-member Lower House of Parliament, and its sympathisers, independent Islamists, won at least eight seats.

According to Dr. Farhan, the application of one candidate, Bassam E'moush (Zarqa), a former professor at the

University of Jordan, was rejected by the Zarqa Governor on legal grounds, "although he had submitted his resignation from his post as early as Sept. 29."

"The Court of First Instance is expected to rule on the issue tomorrow," he said.

The Court of First Instance in Amman Tuesday rejected contestations of two candidates: Nimer Sirhan and Saleh Masandeh whose applications were earlier turned down by the Interior Ministry.

According to the court ruling, carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Sirhan, who applied for candidacy in the Fifth District, has not been a Jordanian citizen

for 10 consecutive years, as stipulated in the Election Law. Mr. Masandeh, who intended to run in the Sixth District, failed to prove that he completed 30 years of age, as also stipulated in the Election Law.

The case of columnist Hamadah Fara'neh, who the government says still retains his seat in the Palestine National Council, despite his assurances that he had resigned, is to be ruled on today.

Another application by Mohammad Abu Rabi'ah (Sixth District) awaits a court ruling either today or Thursday. His nomination was rejected on legal grounds. No further explanation was given.

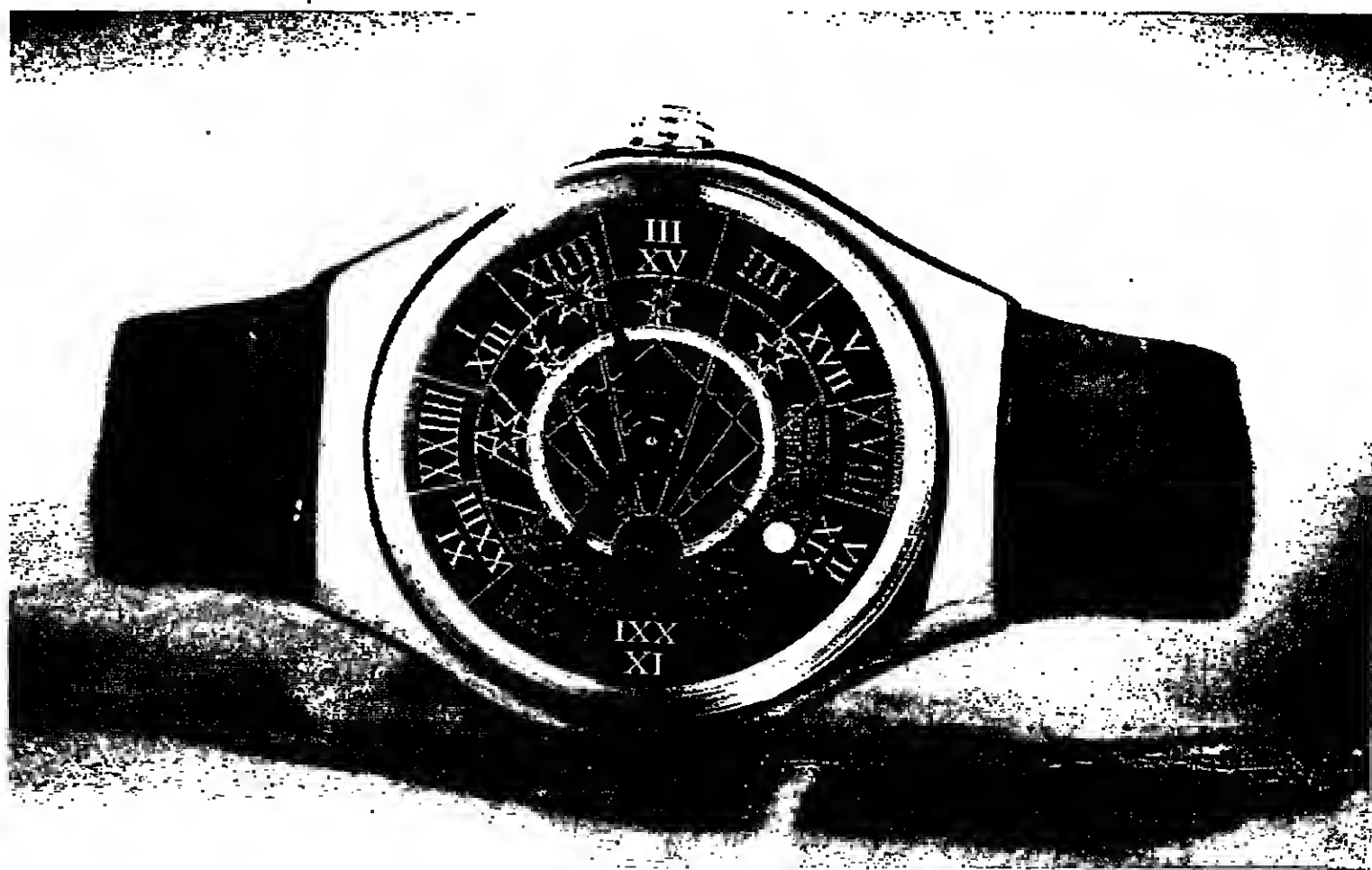
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the 90s. Understatement is the name of the game. In contrast to the brash yuppieism of the 80s, if you've got it, you don't let everyone know about it. If you've got style, you play it down. When a watch is made of platinum, only you know for certain what you're wearing on your wrist.

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# Arab banks to discuss support for economic reforms next month

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab bankers will gather in Sanaa next month to discuss support for Arab economic reform — mainly in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Yemen — in light of decades of state control and political instability.

The Arab Banking Union (ABU), comprising most of the region's banks, is organising the Nov. 15-17 conference. "The participants will study the various roles the banking sector can play to ensure the success of monetary and financial policies specified in the economic reform programmes

in the Arab World," the Beirut-based group said in a booklet on the conference sent to Gulf banks this week. "The conference will also cover the conditions that have prompted Arab states to carry out reforms, their objectives and methods to achieve such

objectives in addition to ways to tackle budget deficits." Several Arab nations have introduced reforms to confront persistent economic problems such as debt, budget deficits, unemployment and slow growth. The reforms, some pre-

scribed by the International Monetary Fund, gained momentum after the Gulf war sharply depressed aid and remittances from the oil-rich region. In Yemen and Jordan, cash flow from the Gulf had accounted for more than half of national revenue before the war.

The reforms included privatisation, improvement of investment laws, easing restrictions on currency transfer, exchange and interest rates and the lifting of the subsidies in some countries. The conference will touch on all these aspects but focus on how banks can support the reform programmes.

Economic woes persisted although oil-rich Arab states have received more than \$350 billion in aid, remittances and investment since 1970. Around \$80 billion came as official aid from Gulf states. According to Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund, Arab debt has steadily increased to \$153 billion in 1991 from \$115 billion in 1985. Debt servicing also grew to \$16.8 billion from \$10.4 billion in the same period.

A budget deficit has persisted in most members of the Arab League, amounting to \$7.3 billion in 1993, while the deficit in trade and balance of payments stood at \$16.2 billion and \$15.8 billion respectively. Such problems conspired with unrest in several countries to scare away investment, ruling out prospects of immediate economic recovery.

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HOTEL

## China's leader warns against growing neglect of farming

BEIJING (R) — Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin, warning that China's embrace of capitalism had led to neglect of farming, ordered top officials to spend one to three months a year in the countryside, official media said Tuesday.

His unspoken message was that communist influence is eroding among China's estimated 900 million farmers, whose support is seen as crucial to the party's grip on power.

Mr. Jiang, addressing a Communist Party Central Committee meeting on agriculture, called for reinforcement of government and party bodies at the lowest rural levels, the official China Daily said.

"These grassroots bodies once played an important role in rural development but have become slack in recent years," the newspaper quoted Mr. Jiang as saying.

Beijing has been stunned in recent months by sometimes violent farmer protests over inflation, the government's use of IOUs to pay for grain and illegal taxation by corrupt local officials. All of which have eaten into rural incomes and slowed what had been steady gains in living standards.

Mr. Jiang, who is also president, ordered that the party and government elite get out of their limousines and luxury villas and spend more time with China's rural citizens.

"Top leaders at all levels of government must personally take charge of agriculture and rural work," he said. "Every leader must spend one to three months a year in the country to study and hear the views of farmers."

An editorial in the party mouthpiece People's Daily warned against merely paying lip service to farmers' problems. "It is necessary to take concrete measures and concrete actions instead of merely shouting slogans," the newspaper said.

"China proudly says it has 'basically solved' the problem of feeding two-fifths of the world's population even though only seven per cent of its land is arable — far less than most other countries."

This year's grain harvest is expected to fall by 10 million tonnes from 443 million tonnes in 1992, but reductions in the traditionally huge losses to vermin and poor storage are resulting in sharply lower grain imports this year.

Imports were down 55 per cent over the first seven months of 1993 and foreign experts expect a full-year total of about six million tonnes, down from a peak of 12.37 million in 1991.

The Eurodisney park has been dogged by problems and unexpected heavy losses since it opened 18 months ago.

## Eurodisney sheds 950 jobs

PARIS (AFP) — The sombre saga of Eurodisney was given a new twist Monday when the company announced that it was shedding 950 jobs, reducing the number of people employed by 8.5 per cent from 11,100.

The announcement, the latest in a series of moves by company president Philippe Bourguignon to combat heavy losses, pushed up the price of shares in the company by 1.13 per cent to 53.75 francs on the stock exchange here.

The cuts would be made mainly among administrative staff and not among people working in the park or its hotels, Mr. Bourguignon told AFP.

A redundancy plan would be put before the works council on Friday, he said. It would involve about 20 different measures such as early retirement and help for those wanting to start a business.

Last week the company said that it was cutting most of its prices, and some by one third. Earlier in the year it had introduced off-peak rates and attempts to attract people visiting Paris for the night life with a scheme to open a jazz ball.

The Eurodisney park has been dogged by problems and unexpected heavy losses since it opened 18 months ago.

## EC spokesman says governments must intervene in free markets

OTTAWA (AFP) — Governments, while supporting the philosophy of free market competition, have an obligation to set standards and controls and "should not abdicate" their responsibilities, a senior European Community (EC) official said Monday.

Tran Van-Thinh, the EC ambassador to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), warned: "A market economy does not hold out the hope of paradise on earth."

"The main justification of the market is simply that it works better than any of the alternatives," said Mr. Van-Thinh of France.

In a paper presented in his absence to a meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Mr. Van-Thinh argued that "governments should create the climate of stability which entrepreneurs need if they are to operate effectively."

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 20, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** The moon in Capricorn squares Venus creating an inability to express emotions and affection as people become moody and overly sensitive. This isn't the right time for organising social events in the future.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) You find you are able to get in contact with those who can extend to your the information and knowledge you desire to round out your finest projects.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Discuss money matters with those whom you have any work or who render you any service or you find and you see ways to have more assets in the future.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) You can have a very good time at the social and recreational activities of your choice and get congenial companions to go along with you also.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Consider well your intimate longings for you have a good chance to gain them through the cooperative efforts and a member of your household.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Look for the various generous-minded persons you know and meet with them to formulate some recreational activities for the future to benefit you and them.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) You are now aware of some means by which you can increase your standing in the community where civic, career or credit conditions are concerned.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Be more willing to reach out to new persons and interests instead of remaining closed so closely with just members of your own household, family.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) You have all sorts of ingenious ideas for handling whatever practical affairs you have but be sure to get your plans made before making them public.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) A fine day to be with friends and acquaintances, partners and outside associates, to push whatever your interests are either business or personal.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Think today even if away from home and during spare time just what you can do to have a greater amount of harmony at your own residence.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Whatever you have in mind to gain your aspirations from your loftiest inspirations is now in the picture and men and women will both be helpful to you.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Family affairs can best rightly occupy your attention now so consider the best methods by which you can do those things to please your own clan.

### THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

"My lawyer is here to make sure you don't take more than your fair share of the covers."

### Peanuts

### Andy Capp

### Mutt'n'Jeff

### JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YACKT  
 YOHEH  
 CHANIG  
 LUPPER

Thank goodness my wife is rich!

THIS COULD SAVE A HIGH-UP FROM A PAINFUL COMEDOWN.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: CHIDE EXUDE MUSCLE REALITY  
 Answer: The kind of clothes you might buy after you've lost weight — "REDUCED"

### THE Daily Crossword

by William Canine

**ACROSS**

- Band's engagements
- Perplexed
- Pierce
- Unpleasant
- Plagiarize, perhaps?
- Tempo
- Scandinavian province
- Supporter of paintings
- Pilaster
- Terrific eater
- Lambent
- Egyptian goddess
- Procession
- Clodhopper
- Have a late meal
- Great Lake port
- Elections
- Muligan in al.
- Out of the wind
- Pass
- Govt. agent
- Seller
- Splenetic
- Idi
- Indo-Chinese language
- Kit of whoppers
- Lambasting
- 33 H. — Paris
- 35 Modifies
- 58 Cutaway
- 60 Moselle tributary
- 61 Grevin images
- 63 Bullets
- 64 Put forth
- 65 Mr. Chips
- 66 Portrayed
- 68 Strap
- 67 City near Warsaw
- 68 Penmen
- 69 Gurge

**DOWN**

- monster
- Concepcion
- Exalted
- Forward
- Pine's island
- Find out
- Statesman Dean
- Compass pt.
- Decker's Sam
- Insulating tube
- Graceful dance
- 12 Played
- 13 Windy City man
- 21 Permit
- 23 Elevator man
- 25 Spineless
- 26 Gemstone
- 27 Guthrie
- 29 Yearning
- 32 Radio-frequency unit
- 33 Hearing
- 35 Cherished
- 36 Push to the (humiliate)
- 37 Snicker
- 40 Former
- Russians var.
- 43 Arab prince
- 45 Brusque
- 47 Basically
- 50 Swiss city
- 51 Texas shrine
- 52 Decorous
- 54 Frigate
- 56 — up (invigorate)
- 57 Winged
- 58 In the center of
- 59 Acting award
- 62 Jewel
- 63 partner

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

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## Saudi Savola profit soars

MANAMA (R) — Savola company of Saudi Arabia, the main supplier of cooking oil in the Kingdom, reported an 85 per cent rise in net profit for the first nine months of 1993 from a year earlier. The Jeddah-based company said it posted a 123.9 million riyals (\$33 million) net profit, up from 67.3 million (\$17.9 million). Total assets for the first nine months of 1993 rose to 1.47 billion riyals (\$392 million) from 1.09 billion (\$291 million) in the first nine months of 1992. A company statement said the firm was involved in huge industrial investment programmes, worth more than one billion riyals (\$267 million), to manufacture chocolate, pack dates and a project to build a huge sugar refinery.

## UAE development spending rises in '93

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE), a key OPEC oil producer, has earmarked more funds for development projects in 1993, the semi-official newspaper Al Itihad has reported.

Allocations for the government investment programme stood at 1.18 billion dirhams (\$298 million) over 1992, it quoted, a planning ministry report as saying.

The service sectors had the 100 share of the 1993 allocations, receiving around 520 million dirhams (\$141.6 million). The remaining funds were channelled into housing, farming, industry and other sectors.

The report said most of the funds were earmarked for projects underway while new ventures got only 78 million dirhams (\$1.29 billion).

## Vietnam seeks to attract Arab Gulf investment

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Members of a high-level Vietnamese delegation touring Gulf Arab states to attract investment Monday described their talks in Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as encouraging.

The delegation, headed by Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh, is promoting 200 projects in sectors including industry, agriculture, tourism and fisheries, on a tour of rich Gulf states.

Deputy Trade Minister Ta Ta told AFP: "Our talks were very positive and encouraging."

"We have had good responses from the officials we met, especially in Kuwait," he added.

The delegation, the highest-level Vietnamese mission to visit the Gulf, was expected to travel on to Qatar and then Yemen, its last stop.

Mr. Ta said more than \$6

billion had been invested in Vietnam since it launched an economic reform programme and the figure was expected to rise steadily.

"We are urging Gulf states to come and take advantage. We are offering them 200 projects, some of which are major projects. It is up to them to choose," he pointed out.

Lu Minh Chau, vice chairman of Vietnam's State Committee for Cooperation and Investment, said new investment laws introduced last year included incentives such as tax exemptions, 100 per cent ownership and freedom of capital and profit transfer.

"We explained the scope for investment to the officials we met and they showed great interest. We invited them to Vietnam to study such opportunities and they promised to come soon," he told AFP.

Kuwait is the only Gulf state to have investments in Viet-

nam, but they remain negligible compared with its assets in the West.

Despite a sharp decline in oil prices over the past decade, Kuwait and other Gulf nations have remained net capital exporters. Their overseas funds are estimated at more than \$350 billion, concentrated in the West in bank deposits, stocks and real estate.

Mr. Ta Ca said the Vietnamese delegation was also discussing boosting political, trade and cultural cooperation with the Gulf countries.

Vietnam has diplomatic relations with all the Gulf states except Saudi Arabia and is planning to open embassies in the region soon. Mr. Ta said Vietnam wanted to establish relations with Riyadh but that depended on the Saudis.

"We wanted to include Saudi Arabia in our visit but we have not received a reply from them," he said.

## THE GALLERY

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ABU DHABI	46.375	197.500	194.000	186.250
ABU DHABI BANK	31.2	5.250	5.250	5.250
ABU DHABI INVESTMENT BANK	4.026	4.820	4.800	4.820
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ABU DHABI INVESTMENT BANK	14.702	5.240	5.200	5.280
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## Bhutto gets 2nd chance as premier

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Pakistan's National Assembly elected Benazir Bhutto as prime minister Tuesday, restoring her to the post she lost three years ago.

The lower house of parliament voted 121 to 72 for the charismatic 40-year-old, whose Pakistan People's Party (PPP) emerged with the most assembly seats in the hung parliament elected in Oct. 6 polls.

"This is an epoch-making moment," a radiant Bhutto said in her first speech as PPP member thumped their benches in delight.

"It is only the second time in Pakistan's history that someone has been elected twice as prime minister," said the daughter of Pakistan's first popularly elected prime minister, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was toppled by a coup just weeks after winning his second election in 1977 and executed two years later.

In a division of the house, smaller parties, independents and allies filed out of one of the two side doors to lend their support to the PPP's 85 elected deputies, enabling Ms. Bhutto to form a coalition govern-

ment. Eight members abstained, including several fundamentalist Muslim clergy who oppose leadership by a woman.

PPP members raised loud cheers when announcement of the count gave victory to a smiling Ms. Bhutto over arch-rival, ex-Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

Mr. Sharif paused to congratulate Ms. Bhutto as the two passed each other on the floor of the parliament to take up their seats as house leader and opposition leader.

The mother of three, her head covered Islamic-style by a white scarf, pledged to start work at once to end what she called Pakistan's international isolation, after U.S. threats earlier this year to place it on a list of countries sponsoring terrorism.

She also pledged to implement reforms and to end corruption.

"People are waiting for change. People don't want a mere change of face, they want a change of system," said Ms. Bhutto, sacked in 1990 on disputed charges of corruption and misrule after just 20

months in office.

"My government will be a government of reforms," she said.

However, diplomats and political observers warned that her government's survival in the hung parliament would depend on the support of small parties, leaving her vulnerable to their demands and casting doubts on the PPP's ability to push through major new policies.

In her election manifesto, Ms. Bhutto promised a devolution of power to decentralise the administration and bring government to people's doorstep, as well as more privatisation and deregulation of the economy in line with ambitious reforms introduced in her predecessor's 30-month rule.

"We will start our hard work from this very moment so that the people's dreams are fulfilled," she said. "My government's first priority will be to take Pakistan out of isolation."

She said she would avoid the confrontations between government and opposition that forced Mr. Sharif to resign last July, and contributed to her own fall three years earlier. "I know very well that

yesterday's opposition can be today's government and today's government can be in opposition tomorrow."

"We will give the same honour to the opposition that we expected for ourselves," she said, referring to the victimisation of political opponents that has traditionally marred Pakistani politics and destabilised successive governments.

"I invite the opposition to cooperate in writing a golden chapter in Pakistan's history," Mr. Sharif responded with a gracious admission of defeat and congratulated Ms. Bhutto on her 49-seat majority.

"I am not sorry to lose this battle," he said. "In every fight one side must win and the other must face defeat."

In an emotional speech, he said his Pakistan Muslim League would eschew the politics of destabilisation and "long marches" used by Ms. Bhutto to topple him.

"God willing, we will not destabilise the system, we will not oppose just for the sake of opposition," he said. "We will be a constructive opposition." He promised his party's unconditional support to Ms.

Bhutto in eradicating illiteracy, disease, poverty, unemployment and "horse-trading."

"We should begin a new era," said Mr. Sharif, in opposition for the first time after 13 years in provincial or federal government. "We will not engage in a negative role inside or outside the assembly."

Meanwhile, a nominee of Ms. Bhutto's party was elected speaker of the Punjab Assembly here Tuesday.

Hanif Ramay, a former Assembly member earlier in the day, would get control over the province, seen crucial for the stability of her government.

The 248-member Punjab Assembly is to elect a chief minister of the province Wednesday.

chief minister of the politically key province, secured 130 votes to 107 polled by rival Zulfikar Ali Khosa, candidate of Pakistan Muslim League of Mr. Sharif.

The election ensured that Mr. Bhutto, who was elected prime minister by the National



Pakistan People's Party leader Benazir Bhutto smiles after she is elected Pakistan's new prime minister Tuesday (AFP photo)

### Man admits shooting jogger with crossbow

TOKYO (R) — A former Tokyo taxi driver faces an attempted murder charge after police arrested him on suspicion of shooting a woman jogger through the back with a crossbow, Japanese news reports said Tuesday. Police said Shigenori Sakamaki, 57, had admitted firing the arrow Sunday but denied targeting the 33-year-old jogger, who is now seriously injured in hospital. Doctors said the arrow missed her heart by two centimetres. Sakamaki told police after his arrest he had been aiming at a noisy car outside his house, in Tokyo's Itabashi residential district, but had accidentally hit the passing jogger instead. There was no immediate confirmation of the charges against him.

### Japan defines sexual harassment

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's Labour Ministry announced its definition of sexual harassment at work, trying to clarify if they are targeted by what is known here as "seku-hara." Based on the report of a study group last year, the ministry defined sexual harassment as "sexual speech or conduct that leads to a deterioration of the work environment" and said it was aimed at avoiding confusion over the concept. One in every four Japanese women have experienced unpleasant sexual experiences at work, including jokes, teasing and being touched, according to a survey of 1,000 women last year.

### Australian claims after-dinner talk world record

MELBOURNE (R) — An Australian public-speaking trainer whose after-dinner speech lasted more than 60 hours said Tuesday he will submit his feat to the Guinness Book of Records. Jim Pearce, 52, said his marathon fundraising effort in a Melbourne hotel from Friday night to Monday morning eclipsed the previous world record by more than 14 hours. "It took a long while before they found another lunatic to try and take it away," said the former electronics technician who now runs his own public-speaking training company. The former record of 46 hours and 10 minutes was set by Charles Garavan and Shayman Kennedy at separate locations at University College, Dublin, in April 1990, according to the 1992 edition of the book. The 1993 edition carries no reference to the record. A 21-year member of the International Public-Speaking Organisation, Toastmasters, Mr. Pearce also met his target of raising about Australian dollar 60,000 (\$39,780) for neurological research by talking for 60 hours and 25 minutes. Mr. Pearce spoke on a range of subjects dear to his heart such as his family, travelling, public speaking and computers in front of audiences that attended in three-hour shifts. He was allowed a five minute break every hour, and his talk was monitored by independent observers in accordance with guidelines laid down by the record book's publishers.

### Children welcome Michael Jackson to Chile

SANTIAGO (R) — Five children, one in a wheelchair and others in Chilean national costume, greeted pop superstar Michael Jackson of his arrival in Santiago Monday. Jackson, in a red, military-style jacket and with a large white umbrella to ward off the sun, walked from his private jet to the children, who presented him with a poncho and Chile's national flower, the Copihue. The five children included the son and daughter of the concert organiser and three others selected by the government's Child Protection Agency. A police cordon kept some 300 fans outside the airport as police escorted Jackson to a van with shaded windows, which left the airport by a cargo exit. Hundreds of fans lined the road to the hotel where he was also disappointed when organisers changed his route at the last minute for security reasons. The Latin American stage of his world tour, which has been dogged by allegations of child abuse strongly denied by Jackson, will also include concerts in Peru and Mexico. Tickets for the two Chilean concerts, costing from 17 to 85, were still available despite heavy publicity.

## Kozyrev calls for defence of key road in Georgia

MOSCOW (AFP) — Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said Tuesday that Russian troops should be used to help defend a strategic road from the rebel-held port of Poti to the Georgian capital Tbilisi, Interfax reported.

Georgian radio meanwhile reported that Russian naval vessels had taken up positions off Poti to prevent illegal exports to Turkey, but this report could not immediately be confirmed independently.

"No one wants to interfere in the internal affairs of the civil war in Georgia, but it is necessary to guarantee the defence of the Poti-Tbilisi Road," Mr. Kozyrev said.

"This road is the lifeline for Tbilisi, for Russian troops deployed in Georgia and also for Baku and Yerevan," the capitals of neighbouring Azerbaijan and Armenia, respectively.

"There could perhaps be a need for forceful steps," Mr. Kozyrev said. "It is not a question of unilateral armed intervention from Russia... It is of operation with the participation and at the request of the Caucasus states themselves

and the parliament of Georgia."

Poti was seized in early October by rebel forces loyal to the former Georgian President, Zviad Gamsakhurdia, who continued Tuesday to consolidate territorial gains against Georgian government forces around the strategic western city of Kutaisi.

The rebels were only 16 kilometres from Kutaisi, according to Georgian authorities.

Kozyrev's remarks came amid conflicting signals from Russian leaders on how to respond to a plea for military aid from Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze, who said his country could face famine if rebel-held transport routes were not freed.

Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin said Monday that Russia would provide "all forms" of assistance to Georgia short of direct military intervention, but Mr. Kozyrev's remarks indicated that stance could be modified.

He said it was in the interest of Russia, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia to guarantee

the "uninterrupted flow of goods" on the Poti-Tbilisi Road and called for "concrete actions" toward this objective.

He said the issue of Russian military involvement in the Caucasus had been discussed at a meeting earlier this month in Moscow between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and the leaders of the three Caucasus states.

Mr. Kozyrev said it was agreed then that while no one wanted to see external interference in the domestic affairs of these states, all had agreed on the need to defend the Poti-Tbilisi Road.

In addition to controlling Poti, rebel forces have also taken the western town of Samtredia through which the road passes, giving them effective control of most of the route.

Georgian government reinforcements poured into Kutaisi Tuesday to fight off any rebel advance.

Djaba Iosseliani, who was put in charge of the state of emergency by President Eduard Shevardnadze, said is coordinating troops to fight the

Gamsakhurdia loyalists, said government troops had stopped the rebels near the village of Janeti, about 16 kilometres west of Kutaisi. Kutaisi is 180 kilometres northwest of Tbilisi.

The rebels were advancing after seizing Sunday the western town of Samtredia and Khoni, the two main towns along their drive towards Kutaisi.

Kutaisi is the main city in western Georgia and Georgia's second largest city. Its capture would effectively cut the country in two. "Fighting and artillery exchanges took place overnight, but this morning everything is calm. We are organising the reinforcements who arrived this night," Mr. Iosseliani said Tuesday.

Mr. Iosseliani has been mustering forces to defend Kutaisi, notably after Russia Monday rebuffed a desperate plea for military intervention despite Mr. Shevardnadze's warning that his country was facing a "catastrophic situation."

## Ignoring protests, Russia plans more nuclear dumping

MOSCOW (R) — Ignoring a storm of international protest, Russia pressed ahead Tuesday with plans to dump more radioactive waste in the Sea of Japan.

Russia's "sea burial" of 900 cubic metres (32,000 cubic feet) of liquid nuclear waste off of liquid nuclear waste off the Japanese coast Saturday provoked angry protest from Tokyo and Washington. Only one of three international nuclear watchdogs was warned in advance.

But ITAR-TASS news agency said Tuesday a T-15 navy logistics ship had docked to a T-27 tanker carrying another 700 cubic metres (25,000 cubic feet) of waste and was preparing to pump it into the same sea area.

"We have no facilities to process and bury waste in a safe place. If Japan helps build facilities to bury nuclear materials, we will be very grateful," TASS quoted Captain Valery Damiyan, head of the Pacific

Fleet's chemical service, as saying.

Russian officials said at a news conference Monday they had to store about 20,000 cubic metres (just over 700,000 cubic feet) a year of nuclear waste on board ageing ships, because the building of onshore storage sites was suspended in the 1960s. They said international aid was needed to help build new sites.

One of the storage tankers was close to breakdown, they said, and the risk of its sinking near residential areas on the Russian coast had forced them to organise the dumping at sea.

"The waste was dumped evenly and, according to the rules of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the concentration of radioactive waste is within safety limits," Capt. Damiyan said.

Whether Russia has stuck to international rules is a moot

point. Capt. Damiyan and other Russian officials say international organisations were notified. The Vienna-based IAEA said it had had advance warning.

But the International Atomic Energy Agency's director-general, Hans Blix, told reporters in Seoul it was up to another nuclear body, the London Dumping Convention, to monitor such operations.

The environmental group Greenpeace said in Moscow that its checks showed neither the London body nor the International Maritime Organisation had been contacted by Russia beforehand.

In Tokyo, the Russian ambassador was summoned for the second time in 24 hours Tuesday to hear Japanese government protests at his country's dumping of nuclear waste.

"The Japanese government will strongly demand Russia stop dumping once and for

all," chief cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura told reporters as anger over the incident.

Moscow and Tokyo signed an agreement last week, during a visit to Japan by Russian President Boris Yeltsin, to work to end nuclear contamination of the world's oceans.

Washington added its voice to Tokyo's. "We urge the Russian Federation to halt the dumping of low-level waste and to honour the existing moratorium," U.S. State Department spokesman Michael McCurry said. "We believe that short-term land-based storage of such low-level waste would be appropriate."

Mr. McCurry said the nature of the waste being dumped was unclear. The Russians say it is a small amount of low-level waste. An International convention signed in London in 1972 bans the dumping of high-level waste at sea.

## NATO to discuss how to tackle chaos in Europe

BRUSSELS (R) — NATO defence ministers, facing growing chaos in Europe and strains in vital transatlantic ties, meet Wednesday to discuss how the alliance could help bring stability back to a troubled continent.

With a NATO summit in January, they will discuss the alliance's new role in peacekeeping, whether it should take on new members in Eastern Europe and how to stop the spread of weapons of mass destruction to renegade states.

The ministers, meeting in the German coastal resort of Travemunde, must also tackle internal problems within NATO, including disagreements between the United States and its allies over Bosnia and the question of Western European defences.

Although East-West confrontation is a thing of the past, there are now real wars in Europe — in the Transcaucasus and in former Yugoslavia — and Russia is unstable. Eastern European nations are increasingly nervous and clamouring to join NATO.

The West's failure to end the war in Bosnia has strained the transatlantic ties at the heart of NATO.

U.S. President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Warren

Christopher, locked in a foreign policy crisis over Somalia and Haiti, have attacked Europe's attitude to Bosnia, singling out France and Britain for particular criticism.

NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner said Monday such criticism served no purpose and urged the alliance to put aside what he called an "irritation" and look to the future.

"I don't think that finger-pointing is the solution to our problem," Mr. Woerner said. "Europe needs a strong United States and Canada and they need Europe as well. There is no time for isolationism or 'go it alone' attitudes on both sides."

Defence ministers will discuss North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) plans to deploy some 50,000 troops to enforce a future peace plan in Bosnia.

There are problems with the Bosnia plan over financing because defence budgets are shrinking, how it would work under a U.N. mandate and a lack of force contributions from many allies. There is also a question mark over the key U.S. contribution.

The summit in January, the first since Mr. Clinton became president last year, will not

only have to repair the damage in U.S.-European relations but also decide on whether the 16-nation alliance should take on new members.

Germany, which is hosting the two-day defence ministers meeting, has argued that countries such as Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic should be anchored in Western stability.

But NATO faces opposition from Russia to any quick expansion of the alliance and is reluctant to open the doors soon.

Mr. Woerner said last week the summit would probably do no more than agree that new members could join at some time in the future, without giving a time-frame or naming the candidates.

"What matters is making it clear that NATO is not a closed society, that there is a prospect of membership, where, when and how are questions that will be dealt with later," German Defence Minister Volker Ruehe said Monday.

But the ministers will discuss how to expand practical defence cooperation with NATO's former Warsaw Pact enemies, including the possibility of joint training and exercises and combined peacekeep-

ing missions in Europe. U.S. Defence Secretary Les Aspin will tell his NATO partners about plans to stop the spread of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons around the globe and appeal for support for a system to defend against ballistic missiles.

Diplomats said the January summit could go some way to easing U.S. concerns that it was still paying too much for the defence of Europe even though the United States still plans to keep 100,000 troops on the continent after 1995.

The defence ministers will discuss plans that could involve lending key NATO military assets to the Western European Union (WEU), a body that does not include the United States and which could become the defence arm of the European Community.

This would mean European allies would have a greater ability to deal with crises when NATO was unable or unwilling to act.

France, which left NATO's military structure in 1966 in protest at what it saw as U.S. domination of European security affairs and does not attend meetings of defence ministers, was invited to come to the Travemunde meeting but refused to do so.

## Mandela says no to ethnic homelands

JOHANNESBURG (R) — ANC leader Nelson Mandela said Tuesday he would never bow to demands for a separate homeland for whites or any other ethnic group in the new South Africa.

Asked on national television whether he would go some way towards meeting the demands for a homeland by right-wing Afrikaners, he said he would continue talking to the rightists but calls for self-determination would be refused.

"One thing which we can never accommodate is a demand for self-determination for a particular ethnic group," Mr. Mandela said.

Right-wing whites and blacks have frequently raised the spectre of civil war if their demands for self-determination were ignored. Mr. Mandela said he believed their leaders wanted to talk rather than fight.

The African National Congress and the newly-formed Freedom Alliance of right-wing whites and conservative black groups met for the first time Tuesday.

The ANC was led by the organisation's chief democracy negotiator, Secretary-General Cyril Ramaphosa.

The exploratory talks were held at the World Trade Centre on the Johannesburg outskirts, site of democracy negotiations which conservative black and white groups have boycotted since early July.

Mr. Mandela said of demands by ethnic groups: "As long as they are prepared for dialogue I will work with them. I have had discussions with (right-wing leader) General (Constand) Viljoen. I believe he wants to resolve these matters through negotiations."

"I have said to General Viljoen we are now drawing up boundaries for regions and if he shows me the region where he wants to live I am prepared to consider that. But it must be a region in which all population groups are free to settle and to have full rights of citizenship."

"In that way I could accommodate (them). I could go to my organisation and persuade them to accommodate that demand," the ANC president said.

Gen. Viljoen, who leads the Afrikaner People's Front (APF), a loose grouping of right wingers, said recently there could be no further talks "without the recognition of full self-determination and a national state."

The APF is a member of the Freedom Alliance linking white separatists and leaders of three largely autonomous black homelands set up under apartheid.

The meeting between the ANC and the alliance began in light-hearted mood with Communist Party Chairman Joe Slovo joking that the four-member team from the ANC, accused by its foes of intimidating less powerful groups in multi-party talks, felt intimidated by the size of the 10-member Freedom Alliance team.

The talks, aimed at trying to set guidelines for substantive discussions, are the first at the World Trade Centre attended by the pro-apartheid Conservative Party and the separatist Inkatha Freedom Party

## Troops break up march on Kashmir mosque

SRINAGAR (AFP) — Indian troops broke up an attempt by Kashmiri Muslims to march on the besieged Hazratbal Mosque here Tuesday as talks to end a four-day standoff between 10,000 soldiers and dozens of Islamic rebels holed up in the shrine remained deadlocked.

Thousands of Kashmiri Muslims defied a curfew and poured into the streets of Srinagar after paramilitary forces used smoke bombs and batons to thwart an attempt by some 500 people to march on the lakeside mosque, the holiest Islamic shrine in Kashmir, witnesses said.

Two Kashmiri Muslims brought in as mediators announced meanwhile they were withdrawing from negotiations aimed at ending the standoff.

The troops' siege of the mosque has drawn the anger of the Muslim clergy and civilians and sparked bitter exchanges between India and Pakistan, which have fought two wars over Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state.

Prominent Muslim politicians led the marchers who assembled in the Batmaloo area of Srinagar at the end of a 24-hour ultimatum they had set for the army to pull back from around Hazratbal.

Troops beat some of the protesters after stopping them on a bridge some 10 kilometres (six miles) from the mosque, witnesses said.

Abdul Ghani, a march leader, said 30 people were injured.

Thousands of Kashmiris chanting "break the siege, break the siege," spilled into the streets of downtown Srinagar after the troops foiled the protest march, witnesses said.

"We are with you, the militants of Hazratbal," chanted the marchers, some of whom carried Pakistani flags.

The demonstrations came as three days of efforts to per-

suade the dozens of armed Muslim militants inside Hazratbal to surrender failed to produce a breakthrough.

Kashmiri politicians have threatened mass unrest if the estimated 10,000 army and paramilitary troops encircling the mosque are not withdrawn.

Abdul Majid Wani and Abdul Kabir Sheikh, both fathers of prominent Muslim militants slain by Indian security forces, pulled out Tuesday as mediators in negotiations between the government and the rebels.

Mr. Wani told AFP the government was insisting on a surrender of the militants and that it be given custody of a holy relic housed in the shrine — a single hair Muslims believe comes from the beard of the Prophet Mohammad.

The rebels want the government to lift a curfew in Srinagar to enable civilians to reach Hazratbal and to hand over the relic to religious figures and prominent Kashmiri Muslims. Earlier Tuesday, chief negotiator Wajabhat Habibullah told AFP that both sides had agreed on two points — to ensure the safety of the shrine and to prevent bloodshed.

"There is unanimity on these two points. We are working from there on what we can do," said Mr. Habibullah, a senior official of the Kashmir administration.

India denounced Tuesday a statement by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) accusing the Indian security forces of desecrating the Muslim shrine.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said OIC Secretary-General Hamid Algabid's criticism of the army siege of the shrine was unwarranted.

He said responsibility for the "acts of arson and intimidation of those frequenting the mosque rests with the terrorists who have desecrated the mosque and even threatened to blow it up."

## Bosnians start PoWs swap

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian Muslims and Croats began to swap hundreds of prisoners Tuesday as international negotiators tested the water for possible new peace talks among the three warring sides in Bosnia.

Bosnian Croat forces released about 750 Muslim prisoners from a camp in Herzegovina at dawn Tuesday. A Reuters reporter in Gabela, south of Mostar, said the prisoners were handed over to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Red Cross officials in the Croatian capital, Zagreb, said the detainees were being taken to an exchange point at Goranci, 25 kilometres (16 miles) northwest of Mostar where Muslim forces were expected to hand over some 300 Croat detainees from camps in Konjic and Jablanica in southern Bosnia.

Around 1,000 Muslim prisoners remain in the Gabela camp. The exchange, the biggest between Bosnian Croats and Muslims, was agreed last week at a meeting between Bosnian Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic and his Croatian counterpart Mate Granic.

Both sides began rounding up men of fighting age in the Mostar region in June after their alliance against Bosnian Serbs collapsed and they started fighting in central Bosnia.

Bosnia Serbs and Muslims were trying to arrange their own prisoner swap.

Mr. Silajdzic and Momcilo Krajisnik, speaker of the self-proclaimed Bosnian Serb parliament, have agreed to free as of Wednesday almost all their remaining prisoners, according to the International Red Cross.

They met in Sarajevo Monday to clinch the deal to free 950 detainees, said Andre Colomb, the ICRC deputy delegate general for Europe.

The releases would include almost equal numbers of Serbs and Muslims from 30 Serb and Bosnian army internment camps across Bosnia.

Mediators Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg were in Zagreb to meet Croatia's President Franjo Tudjman. Croatian radio said they were discussing a Bosnian settlement and the situation in the Krajina region, seized by rebel Serbs during Croatia's 1991 war of independence, from Yugoslavia.

The U.N. fears Krajina could be a new flashpoint in the war, with full-scale fighting threatening to break out between Serbs and Croats.

A U.N. spokesman said the talks were private but one source said the two were reluctant to try to restart bilateral negotiations on a Bosnian settlement until all three sides seemed willing.



## Dublin organisers angry at Seles's formal pullout

DUBLIN (R) — Organisers of a Dublin exhibition event, who had hoped to entice Monica Seles to make her comeback after a knife attack, said Tuesday they were furious at her withdrawal from the December tournament.

"We're totally disgusted," a spokeswoman for the organisers said.

But Seles's agent had already warned Monday that talk of the former world number one returning to competitive tennis in Dublin was premature.

"To date Monica is scheduled to play nothing," the agent, Stephanie Tollison, said, pouring cold water on suggestions that Seles had already committed herself to defending her Australian Open title in January.

Despite continued uncertainty over Seles's fitness since the stabbing in April, Dublin organisers had already advertised her participation in the six-woman event.

The organisers described her withdrawal as "disastrous" and said they did not yet know who would replace the Serbian-born Seles.

"She's not ready yet. That's the reason we've been given," the Dublin spokeswoman said. "I guess she would have had to play (Martina) Navratilova and she might have felt Navratilova would beat her."

Seles has not played competitive tennis since a crazed fan of her big rival Steffi Graf jumped from the stands and stabbed her in the back with a meat-trimming knife during the Hamburg Open on April 30.

Tollison said Monday the Florida-based player, who has dropped to fourth in the world rankings, had only recently resumed light workouts and was nowhere near ready to play again.

Tollison said Seles will not make her comeback at a tournament in Germany next week either.



Monica Seles

Tollison, senior vice president of tennis at Cleveland-based IMG, characterised as "total nonsense" reports that Seles was considering entering a tournament in Essen, Germany next week.

Organisers of the tournament in Essen said earlier Monday that promoter Ion Tiriac had been asked to reserve a wild card for Seles until just before the tournament starts.

Tollison said "there is no basis in truth" to reports that Seles or any representative of IMG asked that a wild card be held for her because she is nowhere near ready to play again.

As a formality Seles may still have to officially withdraw from a number of tournaments which she had entered prior to the April attack, Tollison said. "She won't be making any decision on her schedule until she is ready to play."

## U.S. has tricky start in 1994 Davis Cup

LONDON (R) — The United States, back in the Davis Cup elite after a hitch this year, were presented with a difficult start to their 1994 campaign when they were drawn away against India Tuesday.

For the second year running, the Americans, who have won the Davis Cup a record 30 times, were given one of the trickiest ties of the first round.

India made the semifinals this year after knocking out former winners France but have not been seeded for the 1994 World Cup competition because of a lack of pedigree in previous years.

The U.S. joint top seeds

with Germany, got back into the World Group for next year thanks to victory in a relegation playoff against the Bahamas, after losing in the first round of the World Group to Australia.

The Australians, who play in this year's final against Germany in Dusseldorf in December, also have a potentially difficult away tie to start next year's cup. They will travel to Russia for the first round from March 25-27.

Russia, first-round losers this year, were admitted to the Davis Cup as replacements for the extinct Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

In the wake of the break-up of the CIS the cup's organisers the International Tennis Federation (ITF) have for the first time also admitted Belarus, Georgia, Lithuania and Uzbekistan to the zonal competition.

Other newcomers include Brunei, Oman and Slovakia, bringing the total number of countries in the competition to a record 109.

Hungary are the only newcomers to the elite, 16-team World Group and will play France away in the first round. If France, the 1991 champions, win that, they could face

four-times winners Sweden at home in the second round to July.

Germany could meet Australia again in next year's semifinals, unless either side is upset early.

The Germans, champions in 1988 and 1989, travel to Austria for the first round and will then play either Italy or Spain.

In the zonal competitions, Norway are scheduled to travel to war-torn Croatia for the first round of the European/African competition while Saudi Arabia were drawn to host Iran in the Asia/Oceania group.

## Franco-Welsh duo aims to restore English pride

PARIS (AFP) — A Welsh seagull and a Frenchman will be charged with restoring England's battered football pride and booking Manchester United a place in the Champions League Wednesday.

Eric Cantona's inspirational skills and the exhilarating pace of Ryan Giggs are the two major reasons why United are one of the favourites to lift Europe's premier trophy and provide the perfect antidote to England's all-but certain World Cup qualifying failure.

And United boss Alex Ferguson will be looking to his deadly duo to send a warning

to the likes of AC Milan and Barcelona by killing off Turkish champions Galatasaray in Wednesday's first leg at Old Trafford.

Victory over the Turks would put United into the ultra-lucrative Champions League phase of the competition where they are guaranteed another three moneyspinning ties against glamorous opposition.

But Ferguson has been warned not to start counting his chickens before the golden egg has been laid.

Gordon Milne, the English manager of Galatasaray's

Istanbul rivals Besiktas, has alerted United to the danger posed by striker Sakur Hakan.

"He's 6ft 2in but he's quick for a big fellow and shows great potential. If he catches United one-on-one he could give them a shock," Milne said, adding though that he still expected Ferguson's side to come through.

"Manchester United are becoming the one name that no-one wants to draw, that's the feeling I get around Europe." United should be at full strength with midfielder Paul Ince having won his battle against an injury picked up in England's crucial World Cup loss to Holland in Rotterdam last week.

Barcelona suffered their first defeat of the season at the weekend while AC Milan were conceding their first goal of the season but neither should have too many problems Wednesday.

Milan travel to Copenhagen while Barcelona will be looking to kill the tie at home to FK Austria.

Levski Sofia, the side that eliminated Glasgow Rangers, provide German champions

Werder Bremen with tricky opposition but the closest clashes look like FC Porto's meeting with Dutch champions Feyenoord and the Monaco vs. Steaua Bucharest tie.

Monaco coach Arsene Wenger will do without Brazilian Luis Henrique so he can field Nigerian Victor Ikpeba. Jürgen Klinsmann and Enzo Scifo as his three foreigners for the first leg in the principality.

Goalkeeper Jean-Luc Etxebarri will be playing his 52nd European match, equalling Michel Platini's French record.

In the Cup Winners Cup, holders Parma won't underestimate Maccabi Haifa.

The upset certainly seemed to be preying on Paris Saint Germain coach Arthur Jorge's mind as he prepared his injury-hit side to play Universitatea Craiova.

"There are no minnows any more," he warned. "Look what Israel did to France."

PSG, who reached the UEFA Cup semifinals last season, are doubtful about Brazilian midfielder Valdo, striker George Weah and defenders Alain Roche and Laurent Fournier.

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## S. Korea, Iraq draw 2-2 in crucial World Cup qualifying match

DOHA, Qatar (Agencies) — Iraq, staking its prestige on qualifying for the 1994 World Cup Soccer Championship, drew with South Korea 2-2 Tuesday, keeping a flickering hope of going to the United States for the finals.

South Korea, backed by 2,000 fans who used wooden clappers to cheer their players, was leading 2-1 until the 85th minute, when the Iraqi equaliser came.

South Korea now shares the top slot of the six-nation final Asian qualification with Saudi Arabia with three points each.

Iraq, trying to overcome an unexpected 3-2 loss to North Korea in their first match and the firing of their head coach, fought back and equalised what looked like a South Korean match.

"We still have three matches to go, we can foster our position," said new Iraqi coach Amman Baba in a post-match news conference.

South Korean coach Him

No doubt Iraq is a good team, but it was humidity that affected our performance in the second half," Kim told reporters.

In the first 10 minutes the Koreans lost two opportunities to score when Seo Jung Won failed to beat Iraqi goalkeeper Emaad Hassan from inside the penalty box in the fifth minute. Four minutes later Choi Moon Sik hit over the goalpost from 15 yards.

Iraq made half a dozen intrusions into Korean territory and got dividend in the 31st minute when Laith Hussein netted with a header from a pass from Saad Numan.

The Koreans equalised eight minutes later when Kim Pam Keun flicked the ball from a melee inside the penalty box. At half-time the teams here 1-1.

South Korea marched ahead 2-1 in the 64th minute when French referee Jeol Quiniou awarded a penalty when Jaber Haqoon of Iraq, dowed Korea's Noh Jung Yoon inside the penalty box.

Iraq equalised in the 85th minute when Ahmad Radhi scored from a confusion in front of the Korean goal.

The match, held at the Khalifa Stadium, was equally decisive for South Korea, seeking a third consecutive World Cup appearance. Defeating the Ira-

qi would have given them a total of four points in two outings.

South Korea beat Iran 3-0 in its first match Saturday.

Saudi Arabia is tied with South Korea with three points from two matches, after beating 2-1 North Korea Monday. Earlier the Saudis held Asian emerging soccer power Japan 0-0 in their first match Friday.

Iraq is hoping that qualifying for the World Cup in the United States would help break its international isolation after the Gulf War and revamp the nation's eroded morale.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's eldest son, Odai, who heads the Iraqi Football Association, fired the team's coach Adnan Dirjal and his two main assistants Monday.

Dirjal had lost his temper, broke a chair and angrily gesticulated at the Dutch referee after a match Friday that had the Iraqis leading 2-0 until the 63rd minute when the North Koreans scored their first goal, then rallied two more to win the game.

The world soccer body, FIFA, warned Dirjal that he would be severely punished if he did not control his temper.

Iraq's former national coach Amman Baba Dawood, popularly known Amman Baba and two others, Yahya Alwan and Akram Salman, took over from Dirjal Monday.

Baba Dawood was the Iraqi national coach from 1976 to 1989.

After Wednesday's rest, North Korea meets Japan Thursday.

Meanwhile the hopes of Japanese soccer fans, floating for months on a wave of euphoria, crashed to earth early Tuesday as satellite television pictures showed the national team crashing to disastrous World Cup defeat.

Japan's shock 1-2 defeat by Iran in Qatar virtually ended its dream of playing in next year's U.S. finals. Needing to finish in the top two in the six-way Asian zone final qualifiers, it has so far taken just one point from two games.

"Japan failure Japan emphatically beaten 1-2 by Iran," screamed the headline in Nihon Sports.

"Shock, horror — tight squeeze for World Cup," the tabloid daily added. "The dream of playing in the World Cup is now distant."

## Zambia shocked by World Cup dismissal

LUSAKA (AFP) — FIFA have thrown out Zambia's appeal for a replay of the World Cup soccer qualifier with Morocco saying the Oct. 10 match with the North Africans was played under normal conditions.

In a letter to the Football Association of Zambia (FAZ), FIFA's General Secretary Joseph Blatter said the 1-0 result of the Casablanca match had been upheld.

FAZ officials were meeting to decide what action to take and some officials talked of boycotting next year's Africa Cup finals as a protest.

FAZ had been preparing to

travel to FIFA headquarters in Zurich with three lawyers, including a hired British lawyer to present its case when the bombshell was faxed.

A FAZ official said the Zambians were shocked because they were preparing more evidence to send to Zurich — a video tape showing Zambian players being pelted with oranges while warming up.

Blatter said FIFA's World Cup sub-committee had studied reports from match commissioner Belaid Lacarne of Algeria, special commissioner in charge of security Harry Been of Holland and

Gabonese referee Jean-Fidel Diramba.

"It came to our conclusion that the security measures taken at this match fulfilled FIFA requirements," he said in the letter.

Zambia had alleged Diramba's refereeing was biased and had intimidated and demoralised Zambian players.

Zambia also claimed their players were pelted with oranges when they went out,

for a brief warm up just before the start. The incident was repeated as they went in the dressing room after the first half.

"The match took place without incident and no harmful objects were thrown on the pitch according to the three reports ... and both the Zambian delegation leader and team captain did not complain to Lacarne or Diramba after the match," the FIFA chief said.

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# U.N. launches embargo to punish Haitian rulers

Combined agency dispatches

PORT-AU-PRINCE — Backed by warships, the United Nations Tuesday clamped an economic embargo on Haiti to quash military resistance to the return of exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Nine U.S. and Canadian warships stationed just off the coast began enforcing the trade sanctions at the stroke of midnight Monday.

U.S. Navy aircraft equipped with radar are backing up the interdiction by tracking suspect cargo ships. The sanctions ban imports of arms, military and police supplies and oil.

A group of 10 pro-military parliament went on radio Tuesday and said they planned to form a crisis committee to help resolve the international standoff.

"We have to find a patriotic solution in accord with the Government Island agreement," a spokesman for the group said, referring to the July U.N. accord under which the military had agreed to relinquish power and allow Mr. Aristide's Oct. 30 return.

Political observers, however, said the group of lawmakers were unlikely to have much influence.

In a television interview just before the embargo was implemented, army leader Lieutenant-General Raoul Cedras said the interdiction "will be a catastrophe" for Haiti.

He said up to 10,000 people died as a result of previous international sanctions imposed on the impoverished country, after he and other military officers overthrew Mr. Aristide, Haiti's first democratically elected president, in a bloody Sept. 1991 coup.

Gen. Cedras relaxed with aides at army headquarters as the midnight deadline passed.

News photographers snapped shots of him smoking a cigarette and making jokes.

Asked what the army would do if U.S. troops came ashore to rescue Americans, Mr. Cedras said: "I'm certain it will not reach such a point."

The oil embargo, as well as other sanctions imposed after the 1991 coup, had been suspended when Gen. Cedras signed the agreement in July. The sanctions devastated Haiti's economy — already the poorest in the western hemisphere — and life here was expected to get even worse now.

This capital of one million came to life slowly on the first day of the embargo. "Gas supplies are normal. There's no rationing, yet," a service station attendant said Tuesday. Prices remained stable at about \$1.50 a gallon and there were no lines.

But schools, government offices and some stores remained closed for a second day on Mr. Aristide's orders to mourn last week's assassination of Justice Minister Guy Malval, who was part of the transition cabinet preparing for Mr. Aristide's return. Mr. Aristide's premier, Robert Malval, has blamed military authorities for the murder.

The sanctions decreed by the U.N. Security Council include a ban on oil and gasoline, a ban on weapons, and a freezing of overseas assets of Haiti's de facto authorities or "their agents."

While the naval blockade could ensure no tankers would get through, the United Nations has taken no measures to prevent gasoline shipments from the Dominican Republic, which shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti. The Dominican government is close to Haiti's army, and previous

embargo violations across the border had been reported.

The Haitian military also is believed to have stockpiled several weeks' supply of oil reserves.

The dispute has raised tensions in the volatile capital of Port-Au-Prince. Hundreds of residents have fled to the countryside in anticipation of more army repression or a foreign invasion.

But Gen. Cedras, interviewed Monday on the Public Broadcasting System's "McNeil-Lehrer Newshour," said other nations should not try to reinstall Mr. Aristide by force.

"That solution would bring suffering, blood and tears to my country," he said.

Gen. Cedras said the solution to the crisis lies in further negotiation, but U.N. envoy Dante Caputo, the architect of the plan to restore Mr. Aristide, rejected that idea.

"There is a peaceful solution, the same there's always been," he told the Associated Press, referring to the U.N.-brokered pact.

Right-wingers return might provoke "a civil war," Carl Denis of the National Coalition said Monday.

Mr. Aristide, who won Haiti's first free elections in 1990 by a landslide, enjoys widespread support among Haiti's poor masses. But the issue of his return does not split neatly along rich-poor lines. It bitterly divides friends, even families.

"Everyone wants Haitians to live a little better, to live in a state where law prevails. But no one can agree whether Aristide is the man to do it," said Richard Widmaier, director of independent Radio Metropole.

Spokesmen for both sides are concerned about looming violence and chaos.



GENERAL KILLED: Police forensic experts inspect the remains of a car that was used in a car bomb attack in Madrid early Tuesday. The vehicle was used to escape by unidentified gunmen who Tuesday morning had gunned down Spanish Air Force

General Dionisio Herrero, 63. The bomb explosion caused extensive damage outside the National Industry Institute, a state holding company (AFP photo)

## World Bank says Palestinians need \$1b

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The occupied territories need an infusion of up to \$1 billion through 1995 to get a Palestinian economy on track, a World Bank leader assessed on Monday.

Donor nations have so far promised about \$2 billion over the next five years in grants and loans to the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Prem Garg, head of a World Bank team touring the occupied territories, told the Associated Press there was a pressing need for money to pave roads, dig sewage systems, lay water lines and electricity grids.

"Many areas of the infrastructure do need considerable improvement," Mr. Garg said. He estimated that the work would cost between \$800 million and \$1 billion in 1994 and 1995.

Mr. Garg's team of experts arrived last week to survey and compile a two-year investment plan in advance of April 1994, when Palestinians gain autonomy in Gaza and West Bank town of Jericho.

World Bank proposals are expected to be discussed by a steering committee of donor countries meeting in Paris next month.

Israelis and Palestinians may negotiate their future economic ties in Paris at about the same time, Palestinian economist Samir Abdullah said.

Mr. Abdullah said the Palestinians want Israel to double to 100,000 the number of Palestinians permitted to work in Israel. Israel halved the number of work permits to 50,000 in March.

Palestinians also want Israel to lift an embargo on the sale of some Palestinian-made items in Israel, such as farming goods and pharmaceuticals, Mr. Abdullah said.

"We prefer an open, free exchange between us and Israel," Mr. Abdullah told the AP.

Israeli Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said Israel has set aside \$50 million over five years to guarantee Israeli businesses forming joint ventures with Palestinian companies.

## Clinton recalls Rangers from Somalia

Combined agency dispatches

WASHINGTON — The United States said Tuesday it was withdrawing an elite fighting unit from Somalia as part of a shift in emphasis from security to rebuilding the political process in the Horn of African country.

White House spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers said in a statement that the unit of the army Rangers would be out of Somalia "within the next few days."

President Bill Clinton was withdrawing the troops on the recommendation of Defense Secretary Les Aspin, said Ms. Myers. The Pentagon said 600 Rangers would be withdrawn from Somalia.

"We've shifted the focus of the mission there from security to the political track with some success," Ms. Myers said.

The Rangers were sent to Mogadishu as part of an effort to hunt down Somali warlord Mohammed Aided, but a raid Oct. 3 in which 18 U.S. soldiers were killed prompted the Clinton administration to reassess that policy.

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Madeleine Albright said over the weekend that the U.S. forces in Somalia had abandoned the search for Gen. Aided, whose arrest was ordered by the United Nations following an ambush in June in which 24 Pakistani peacekeepers were killed.

Ms. Myers, in the statement Tuesday, noted that 3,600 Marines ordered by Mr. Clinton to patrol the waters off Somalia had arrived, making it possible to withdraw the Rangers.

"With this force present, the president has approved the recommendation of the secretary of defense that U.S. Army special operations command elements (Rangers) be returned to the United States within the next few days," the statement said.

Asked if the move meant he had given up the search for General Aided, Mr. Clinton said Tuesday: "It means that we have 3,600 Marines coming in, many of whom have a similar capacity who will be there and it means right now we are engaging in a political

process to see how we can resolve our mission in Somalia."

"We're pursuing negotiations to try to get a political solution and I'm happy to say that... we're able to fulfill our mission better now than we have been for the last few months," he said.

In Somalia, Major General Thomas Montgomery, commander of U.S. forces there, told reporters in Mogadishu he assumed that at least some of the 3,600 Marines would come ashore.

"I would assume they'll be here to take part in operations as well. I anticipate that they're here to work," he said. The Marines are not under his command yet.

Mr. Clinton earlier this month announced that he was beefing up the total U.S. force in Somalia from 4,700 to over 10,000 troops — but only as a prelude to withdrawing all the forces by March 31.

"This rotation of forces is part of the overall deployment that the president ordered to ensure that U.S. forces in Somalia are fully protected," said the White House statement.

## 2 Russian officers killed in Algeria

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Suspected Muslim extremists have assassinated two senior Russian military officers serving as advisors in Algeria, the second deadly attack on foreigners in a month, the Russian embassy said here Tuesday.

Three gunmen fired on the two, Lieutenant-colonel Vladimir Lazhnyy and Alexander Orlov, both 40, as they left their home Saturday at Laghouat, 400 kilometers south of Algiers, the embassy said.

The attackers escaped. The two officers had been in Algeria for two years and were instructors at a local flight training school under a bilateral cooperation programme.

The Russian military attaché and consul went straight to Laghouat to take part in an enquiry and organise the repatriation of the bodies, the embassy said. Both men were married with children, but had left their families in Russia.

Algerian authorities did not immediately confirm the attack and no group has claimed responsibility for the killings, which followed warnings from fundamentalists to foreigners not to aid the current government.

It was the second time foreign nationals have been targeted since armed fundamentalists launched a violent campaign to topple the government in 1991.

On Sept. 21, two French surveyors were kidnapped near the oil port of Arzew in western Algeria and later found with their throats cut several dozen kilometers away.

Nobody claimed responsibility for those killings. Algerian officials said the attackers had been identified but not arrested, while the findings of an official inquiry into the case have not been made public.

The two French men — Francois Barthelet, 32, and Emmanuel Didon, 25, — were working for a French company building a high-voltage power line in the region.

A group of armed men last week also burst into the home of a German businessman working for the Mercedes au-

tomobile company and gave him a "message" warning all foreign residents in Algeria they were at risk, diplomatic sources said.

At least 1,500 people have died in political violence since the authorities cancelled parliamentary elections in February 1992 which the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was set to win.

The latest victim, Smail Yef-Sah, a journalist with state television, was being buried on Tuesday in his home town, Thala Amara, east of Algiers. He was the second television newsman to be killed in five days and the seventh journalist to die since May.

Most Algerian newspapers will not be published on Wednesday in what their editors termed a "first sign of protest" at the killings.

They called on "the leaders and public authorities to take immediate strong measure to halt the genocide."

The jailed leader of the FIS, the main target of the crackdown, has been placed in a military hospital in Algiers.

## Protesters jeer Queen Elizabeth in Cyprus

Combined agency dispatches

NICOSIA — Angry Greek Cypriots jeered Queen Elizabeth and police tear-gassed demonstrating schoolchildren when the British monarch made a controversial visit to the divided city of Nicosia Tuesday.

Scores of protesters yelled "we don't want you here," whistled and chanted old guerrilla slogans at a ceremony to present her with the key to the city.

Earlier, police used tear-gas to disperse dozens of schoolchildren to clear a road for the queen, witnesses said.

From a rooftop she peered over barbed wire and shell-smashed houses into the breakaway Turkish-Cypriot republic, whose people, including fugitive financier Asil Nadir, remain Commonwealth citizens.

Passions on the island, a former British colony and divided between Greek and Turkish Cypriots since a 1974 Turkish invasion, were inflamed by a decision to award the queen the key before the Commonwealth summit she will chair later this week.

Greek-Cypriots say she should apologise for the hanging of nine young EOKA guerrillas in 1955 during the struggle against British rule. She should have granted them a pardon, they say.

They also complain Britain has done little to push Turkey towards withdrawing its 30,000 troops from the north and accepting a United Nations plan to reunite the island as a federation.

Mayor Lellos Demetriades, in the ceremony at the Famagusta Gate Portal in Nicosia's 16th century Venetian-built walls, told the queen: "The city has the unenviable title of the last divided capital in Europe."

He added: "Our people are still refugees in their own country. We appeal to the Commonwealth to undo the wrong done to us."

Outside the crowd jeered and chanted "EOKA, EOKA" — the name of the guerrilla army that fought British troops in the streets and mountains during the 1950s. They sang the Greek national anthem and demanded Britain close three military bases it still retains on the south side of the island.

Cypriot nationalists were furious with Mayor Demetriades for giving the queen the golden key to the city.

## Court hears 3 defence witnesses in plot trial

AMMAN (Petra) — The State Security Court Tuesday held its 11th session to discuss the case of the Tahrir Party.

At the beginning of the session, the court listened to the testimonies of Dr. Abdul Aziz Khayyat, Dr. Izzidin Al Khayyat and Sheikh As'ad Bayoudh Al Tamimi, who provided information about the party's principles and objectives.

The witnesses stressed that the principles of the party during the 1950s were inspired from the life of the Prophet Mohammad during his call for Islam in Mecca and Medina and that they do not know whether the party had changed its methods after that period because they cut their links with it and stopped following up on its action.

The court, the prosecutor-general and the defence lawyers separately discussed with the three defence witnesses the basis the party uses to judge the Arab regimes as infidel and the strategy that the party follows to establish an Islamic caliphate state and whether violence and murder are among this strategy.

The prosecutor general asked that the first testimony of the first witness be rejected because he did not make the oath in the manner stipulated in Article 174 of the criminal courts that says that a witness makes the following oath: "I swear, by God Almighty, to testify the truth, with no addition or omission." While the witness said: "I swear, by God Almighty, to testify what I know, without addition or omission."

## Palestinians need \$1b by 1995 - World Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The occupied territories need an infusion of up to \$1 billion through 1995 to get a Palestinian economy on track, a World Bank leader assessed on Monday.

Donor nations have so far promised about \$2 billion over the next five years in grants and loans to the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Prem Garg, head of a World Bank team touring the occupied territories, told the Associated Press there was a pressing need for money to pave roads, dig sewage systems, lay water lines and electricity grids.

"Many areas of the infrastructure do need considerable improvement," Mr. Garg said. He estimated that the work

would cost between \$800 million and \$1 billion in 1994 and 1995.

Mr. Garg's team of experts arrived last week to survey and compile a two-year investment plan in advance of April 1994, when Palestinians gain autonomy in Gaza and West Bank town of Jericho.

World Bank proposals are expected to be discussed by a steering committee of donor countries meeting in Paris next month.

Israelis and Palestinians may negotiate their future economic ties in Paris at about the same time, Palestinian economist Samir Abdullah said.

Mr. Abdullah said the Palestinians want Israel to double to 100,000 the number of Palestinians permitted to work in Israel.

## Israel releases prisoner

(Continued from page 1) no soldiers were killed.

Israel handed Mr. Zerai over to Ahmad Tibi, an Israeli Arab adviser to Mr. Arafat. Mr. Zerai thanked Mr. Arafat and Dr. Tibi for working for his release, saying he hoped others too would be freed.

He then headed for his home in Deir Al Balah refugee camp.

As the bursts of gunfire subsided, supporters sat Mr. Zerai on the bonnet of a car for a lap of honour round the camp and town where hundreds lined up to cheer and dance.

"I have forgotten who I am over these years," said Mr. Zerai.

"I always wanted to be the last prisoner to be released," added the longest-serving Palestinian prisoner.

"I assured my fellow prisoners that I would be an ambassador for them on the outside. All of them must be freed," said the bachelor whose mother and father died during his time inside.

"They are the pillars on which an independent Palestinian state must be built."

Asked earlier if a mass release was imminent, Uri Savir, foreign ministry director-general, told Israel Radio to wait for Wednesday's meeting in Taba, Egypt, where the sides are ironing out details of the Sept. 13 peace deal.

"Tomorrow the talks will resume in Taba. And there we will have to wait for a more official announcement by Israel in a more general context of an improvement in the security situation in the arrangement with the Palestinians," Mr. Savir said.

For the PLO leadership, the release is a priority issue, the fastest way to assure the public uneasy with the accord that it will bring tangible results. Delegation official Tawfik Abu Housa said Mr. Zerai was an important symbol because so many activists had come to know him in jail and he could calm the factional war brewing within the Gaza Strip.

But the PLO is asking for more than just its own activists. It wants to prove it is the leadership for all Palestinians by securing the release of fundamentalist critics of the plan.

## Israel wants new formula

(Continued from page 1)

territories and usurped rights because that would be a peace that will not survive, and one that will not achieve security, prosperity and stability for anyone," Mr. Sharaa said at the commission meeting.

The joint commission is a vehicle for coordinating policies and economic, cultural and social cooperation. It meets every six months in Riyadh or Damascus. It was formed after the Gulf war when Syria emerged with Egypt as the two leading Arab allies of the Gulf Arab countries confronting Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf Arab countries have supported the PLO-Israel accord as a first step towards a comprehensive Arab-Israeli settlement.

In his address, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal, the co-chairman of the commission, said the PLO-Israel accord "will be a step towards achieving a lasting, comprehensive and just peace" if followed by resolution of other

issues and guarantees of Israel's pullout from the Golan Heights and occupied territory in Lebanon.

In an arrival statement, Mr. Sharaa said late Monday there was disparity in the attitude of Syria and Saudi Arabia towards the peacemaking process.

Both countries, he said, were deeply concerned about attaining a peace based on U.N. Security Council resolutions and the land-for-peace formula.

"What has so far taken place should urge us to lay stress on the just and comprehensive peace to serve security and stability in the entire region," he added.

Damascus Radio accused Israeli leaders of trying to undermine U.S. efforts to give new impetus to the peace process.

The radio said Israel was "trying to hamper" the current tour by Mr. Ross, "and in order to achieve that, Israel is putting all the blame on Syria, accusing it of not wanting peace."

## French Movie industry seeks protection

PARIS (R) — A delegation of movie stars and directors including Isabelle Huppert and Roman Polanski pleaded with Prime Minister Edouard Balladur to protect the French film industry from U.S. domination. Huppert, and Polanski, who directed Rosemary's Baby, were joined by producer Daniel Toscani Du Plantier, actor Christian Clavier and directors Claude Berri and Roger Planchon in a meeting on GATT trade talks. They were part of a stream of politicians, union leaders and farm groups to confer with Mr. Balladur, who has been trying to forge a national consensus on the trade negotiations. The movie industry representatives asked Mr. Balladur to push for cultural items like films to be exempted from a trade accord being negotiated under the auspices of GATT — the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. "We speak of culture, they speak of dough," said Berri referring to the United States. Berri's film Germinal will go on screen in French cinemas this week with Steven Spielberg's Jurassic Park, to be released Wednesday. "If there was no Germinal, Jurassic Park would take in 90 per cent of movie receipts," Berri said.

"Today U.S. movies capture 70 per cent of the market," said Clavier, who wrote the screenplay for France's biggest home-grown success of late, The Visitors. "Without a cultural exception (from a GATT accord), it would be 95 per cent."

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